

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

FALLACIES OF RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.

"RELIGIOUS equality" is a phrase which found its way into common use from the columns of this journal. The *Nonconformist* was the mint in which it was coined, and the wide currency it has obtained shows the rapid growth of the sentiment it was designed to express. *Prima facie*, therefore, we can hardly desire to put any arbitrary restriction upon its fair meaning. The phrase, however, has of late been rather indiscriminately applied, especially by those who have seen fit to adopt it without fully appreciating or even recognising the principle it expresses. At the last general election, it was commonly resorted to by Liberal candidates, and even by some who are now high in office, as the Shibboleth which it was indispensable to pronounce in order to gain access to the House of Commons, but without any comprehension of its real signification. Is it matter of wonder that since then it has been often abused? If we now call attention to the subject it is because we are convinced that serious practical evils may arise from the habitual misapplication of the term. The most mischievous fallacies may creep into public respect under cloak of a phrase which was never meant to cover them.

The new and, as we venture to think, the spurious idea of religious equality is, that Government, or, in other words, public law, cannot be charged with infringing it so long as it holds itself prepared to do for all denominations what it does for any one of them. For example, in the matter of elementary education, the maintenance of sectarian schools, as such, out of public rates, is deemed to be quite in accordance with religious equality, if only the same advantage, or supposed advantage, be offered indifferently to all the sects. So also, Mr. Gladstone, in a late debate on the Dublin University Bill, seemed to consider those Irish parents justified in regarding themselves aggrieved, who were unable to obtain for their sons, at the public expense, the benefit of the "higher education" in association with the religious teaching they might prefer. These illustrations may suffice to point out what we mean by what we presume to characterise as "fallacies of religious equality."

Well, let us look at the matter with a closer reference to the sense than to the sound of the phrase. It is not designed to express an absolute, but a relative state of things. We mean

by it, of course, equality of religious rights, in the eye of the law, and in reference to the action of the Government. What we claim that Government should do for us, we claim to be done as a violation of the principle under notice, unless the particular thing asked to be done, can be justly done in like manner for all. We can ask, for instance, to be protected in the performance of our religious duties, individual and social—on the assumption, of course, that what we regard as our duties do not infringe upon the rights of others—because this is an act which the State can perform equally for all. But we cannot demand, in the name of religious equality, that law shall regulate the affairs of our churches, because although law might easily undertake to do the same thing for all religious communities, there are several of them whose religious convictions would exclude all interference of either the Legislature or the Executive with their internal management, and, in their case, the State in attempting to do justice would necessarily work injustice.

In our reading of the phrase, it cannot rightly describe any application whatever of resources which are the common property of all the subjects of the realm, in aid of the development, or the propagation, of religious ideas. Religious equality, in a free country like ours, can only be carried into effect in a negative sense. In attempting positive results it loses its own character. The State not only may, but is under obligation to, protect from wrong, whencesoever it may proceed, any exercise of religious views, feelings, aims, or practices, so far as they do not make war against its own authority, or contravene the liberties to which all alike are equally entitled. It may, and it should, administer impartial justice in all disputes relating to property, or to the uses to which it is appropriated. In discharging these functions, it remains strictly within its own sphere, and violates the just claims upon it of no individual, class, or sect. It favours none to the detriment of others. It creates no inequality of position. So far as law is concerned, it accords precisely the same advantages to all. But the moment it quits this negative ground, and assumes to help in the diffusion of religious ideas, it almost necessarily places itself in contact with cross currents of faith, or of opinion, to which it cannot strive to adapt itself without bringing uneven pressure to bear upon some part or other of the community. It may offer precisely the same service to all—but it can hardly be pretended that it offers equal service, if what is offered is acceptable to some—it may be to the majority—and is repugnant to the religious convictions of others.

Let it not be said that the conclusion at which we point is theoretical only—it is becoming every day a matter of urgent practical importance. Take the case of Barbadoes, for example. Her Majesty's Ministers have avowedly sanctioned the application to that island of the principle of "concurrent endowment." They rest their justification on the basis of what they call religious equality. The majority of the population, they say, profess conformity to the Church of England, and do not desire the disendowment of their religious institutions. In order, therefore, to enforce the principle of religious equality, they deemed themselves bound to sanction the public support of the ministers of all denominations. But what does this

amount to? It comes to this—that wherever those who do not object to the appropriation of public funds (to which all are required proportionably to contribute) to religious purposes, constitute the majority of the community, those who conscientiously object to such appropriation, and cannot therefore avail themselves of it, are on a footing of religious equality with those who can and do. The maintenance of Christian instruction and worship exclusively by the voluntary offerings of such as care for them, is an item in the faith of perhaps half the people of the British empire—and they are told to believe that the State may trample that item under foot without doing them the least injustice. If this article of belief may be thus summarily overruled, why not other articles? In refusing to receive support for their Churches derived from compulsory taxation, they believe they are doing their Lord's will—but the upshot of their obedience to these convictions is, that in comparison with other classes of the community, they are placed by the State under serious disadvantage.

The truth is, there can be no such thing as religious equality, at least in this country, except under conditions which exclude the active interference of the State in aid of religious ministrations. The phrase in Mr. Gladstone's mouth does not mean what Liberatorians mean by it. We do not charge him with using it insincerely. His interpretation of it, however, differs widely from theirs. It is well that this should be constantly borne in mind. When, for instance, he assures the country that the question of Irish University education shall be settled on the basis of religious equality, we have no warrant for concluding that he does not mean that it shall be settled on a basis of concurrent endowment. We should not be justified in saying that he contemplates this result—but we wish to warn our readers that this result would not be inconsistent with his, and, we are bound to add, with many other men's understanding of the now somewhat popular phrase.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

In another column we copy from the *New York Independent* the second and final letter from Dr. Joseph Thompson, of New York, to Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., who, *apropos* of Mr. Miall's disestablishment motion, contended that the United States had "failed to reach the absolute separation of things secular and things holy." It seems to us that the reply of the American divine to the hon. member for Frome is complete. Mr. Hughes confounds things that differ. The case of Mr. Cheney, which he cited in illustration of his view, was singularly unfortunate—for, as his correspondent shows, no church court in America can enforce its decisions by civil pains and penalties. Civil courts in the United States have no jurisdiction whatever in questions of faith and ritual, though they are—and must be—the ultimate tribunal to which all religious as well as secular bodies appeal on questions of fact, contract, or usage. It is further pointed out by Dr. Thompson that Mr. Hughes confuses the recognition of religious beliefs in some of the State constitutions with the notion of an Established Church. Perfect religious equality prevails throughout the Union, and Church and State are separated in all their functions. If Mr. Hughes and Parliament are ready to place Great Britain in the same position, we shall be abundantly content. At all events, we prefer the facts of Dr. Thompson, based upon constitutional authority, to the strange misapprehensions of Mr. Hughes; and fully accepting

the rev. Doctor's assurance that "in these United States, and in each and every one of them, State and Church have been finally and for ever divorced," we cordially thank him for his seasonable contribution towards the final settlement of a disputed point in this great controversy.

The *Times* of Monday last, in its elaborate review of the session, had the following paragraph on the disestablishment question, which we quote alongside the remarks made by the same paper when Mr. Miall's motion was before the House of Commons:—

Times, Aug. 21.
Mr. Bruce has not increased the confidence reposed in the Government by the collapse of all his projects of domestic legislation. He would have served his party better by establishing a reputation at the Home Office than by encouraging, under colour of a faint opposition, Mr. Miall's mischievous scheme for the abolition of an Establishment which is much more efficient than the Executive Government. Mr. Gladstone for once was somewhat more firm than his subordinate in resistance to a wanton revolutionary project; but it would be rash to calculate on the duration for three years of his support of the Church of England.

Times, May 9th.
The Church of England is being disestablished, piecemeal indeed, but effectually, and not slowly. The more jealous and sensitive members of the Church of England already feel themselves the subjects of a painful and tedious operation, which some of them would wish us to interrupt, others to finish altogether, so as to put them out of pain. But that the work of disestablishment is in progress, even this very session, cannot be disputed; the only question being as to the pace, which is not fast enough for Mr. Miall. That really is the question for Parliament. It is scarcely possible to doubt that this century will see the consummation Mr. Miall so devoutly wishes. In the face of the great changes at home, and the still greater changes abroad, in the face of Papal disestablishment itself, we cannot expect anything else. As things are, the Church is being trained to independence; it is being weaned from supremacy and dominion; one by one it is losing its titles, weapons, and prerogatives. Wait till its education is completed.

"Wait till its education is completed!" Is not the promulgation of right principles by those outside the Church a necessary part of that education? But we forbear. When the *Times* virtually answers itself, no other reply is needed. Our contemporary has, however, stronger expectations of Mr. Gladstone's early change of views than ourselves. But though the Prime Minister adheres to the State-Church, his statement last Thursday night—that "in a country where there is an Established Church, it cannot be said that abstract and absolute religious equality prevails"—was a fatal, though inevitable admission. This remark was made in reply to Mr. Charley, who, quoting Earl Granville's colonial despatch, to the effect that the "principle of religious equality is inconsistent with, and opposed to, the principle of establishment"; naturally wanted to know which of these two inconsistent principles the Government intended to carry out. Mr. Gladstone justifies the language of his noble colleague, because in the colonies "the principle of an Establishment has never had any except a partial and very shadowy existence." Now, when the right hon. gentleman throws overboard the State-Church principle in the colonies on the ground stated; disestablishes the Irish Church because it is in a minority; and admits that in England religious equality is impossible so long as there is an Established Church—it is not unreasonable for the *Times* to be a little distrustful of Mr. Gladstone's fixity of opinion. The State-Church question being no longer one of principle, but of expediency, who can say that what is deemed expedient to-day will appear to be so three years hence?

Will the Church as by law established be saved by its bishops? It appears from the *John Bull* that most of the members of the Episcopal Bench have now joined the Church Defence Institution, and that the Primate himself—not remarkable for rashness—has consented to become President of that society. We ought, therefore, judging from the patronage bestowed upon it, to expect great things from this new organisation, if its supporters do not in their hearts—as they well might—distrust agitation *per se*, as fatal to the claims of an Establishment which is confessedly based on no defensible principle. Our readers may remember that in April, 1868, there was an imposing demonstration of Irish Church defenders at St. James's Hall, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury supported by an array of bishops and archdeacons, and that within four short months of this Episcopal protest the Irish State-Church was abolished by Act of Parliament!

Some of the bishops are, however, working in their own proper spheres to save the Establishment. Dr. Fraser, of Manchester, whose honest nature, freedom from sacerdotalism, and liberal ideas are not smothered by his episcopal robes, has just been denouncing the "cure of souls by purchase"—perhaps after reading the damaging sketch of "An Investing Contributor" in the *Daily News*. This is the bishop's opinion on the subject:—

He quite admitted that the evil was much less mischievous in fact than it might be expected to prove, but it was an evil which generated a low conception of the ministerial office, and one which generated all kinds of technical evasions, which were most demoralising. A patron could by law sell the next presentation to a benefice an hour before the death of the living incumbent, but he could not do so an hour afterwards. What plain man of common sense could understand or explain the distinction or its cause? The whole traffic in Church patronage was an evil, an abuse of a high and solemn trust, and hence, although it had grown up to be a recognised system amongst us, it was so pernicious in its influences that every true well-wisher of the Church ought to desire its removal.

His lordship says that a bill was introduced this session into the House of Lords for preventing the sale of next presentations, but it failed—he knows not why. Such simplicity is perhaps excusable in one of the youngest of our "spiritual peers." Probably the right rev. prelate will before long discover that the reforms he favours cannot be carried without rending his Church in pieces. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol also goes in for reform—cathedral reform. Dr. Ellicott gives his decided opinion "that the English Church will stand all trial," and scorns the idea that she will ere long be reduced to the level of "a sect among sects." Still he is not quite at ease. "Unless," he says, "our cathedrals more and more increase in efficiency—unless they become, as already said, more and more the true parish churches of the diocese—changes, it may be, swift and sudden, as those that fell on a sister Church, will sweep over the cathedral system, and innovation, probably stern and unsparing, will deal with institutions that really need only well-considered and reasonable reform." After all the dignitaries of the Establishment are not more confident as to the future of the State Church than the statesmen of the day. See how its foundations are being undermined! Mr. Gladstone applies to it the test of utility; the Bishop of Gloucester says the Church can't stand without reform; the Bishop of Manchester, admitting that "all is not as it should be," seems to despair of reform; and Archdeacon Denison honestly avows that the Establishment, which shows "many symptoms of rapid decay," may die, though "the Church lives."

It will not be easy for the English clergy to stem the tide which is setting in, not only in their own country, but abroad, in favour of the separation of Church and State. What has already been done in Italy, Austria, and Bavaria in this direction need not now be mentioned. It seems that the Emperor William and the other Princes of the Confederation have lately been petitioned for a reform of the German Protestant Church. It is urged by "an eminent Protestant theologian" that the period of transition should now come to an end, and that a purely ecclesiastical organisation should be established so as to emancipate the Church from the State. As the most effective means of doing this, he proposes that the German Emperor and the other German Sovereigns should transfer the spiritual power to the bishops and archbishops under a single primate, who would be assisted by a council. The Swiss Pastoral Society, also, which numbers some two hundred Protestant ministers, and has been in session at Schaffhausen, has been discussing the same subject. In the course of the proceedings Dr. Finster, one of the most eminent of Swiss divines, strongly objected to the plan of a National Church, and urged that the Church ought to be organised on a basis of freedom from State control, and ought never to demand from the State the employment of force. These views seemed to meet with the general concurrence of the conference, though no action was taken.

THE WESLEYAN METHODISTS AND THEIR DECLINING NUMBERS.

The decline in the number of the Wesleyan Methodists evidenced by the statistical returns presented at the recent Conference, seems to have drawn special attention to the necessity of revival efforts. A special meeting was devoted to the consideration of "The State of the Work of God." The following is the summary of the proceedings given in the *Watchman*:—"The stir and bustle amid which the business of Conference is often transacted gave way for a while to a solemn quiet. A hymn was sung, and Mr. M'Aulay led his brethren in prayer, pleading with great earnest-

ness for forgiveness of past unfaithfulness, and for the outpouring of the Spirit. The sacred influence felt throughout the chapel during the following hour we hope never to forget. The President, in a few earnest words, recalled scenes in Cornwall during his early ministry, when within a short time a thousand persons found peace with God in the Truro Chapel. He expressed his longing for the return of such days of grace, and said that two things profoundly impressed him, 'We must get nearer to God, and must seek a passion for saving souls.' Mr. D. Hay followed, speaking as one who had learned precious lessons in affliction and retirement, and who, 'when too feeble in any other way to help God's cause, had whispered his prayers to heaven.' He, too, remembered days of the right hand of the Most High. He did not think the decrease of the past year augured the decline of Methodism, but he longed for more of the revival spirit. Culture was desirable, but, above all, the power to win souls. We want, perhaps, less preaching, but more prayer. Mr. Gregory, himself one of the most highly cultivated of the Methodist preachers, feared lest the point of culture should be unduly pressed upon probationers, to the diverting of the attention from pastoral duties. He suggested a system of deputations throughout the connexion for purposes of revival. Mr. Hall and Mr. Brailsford spoke faithful words on the necessity for systematic diligence in pastoral visitation. Mr. Mason told of encouragements he had recently had. Mr. Helier, with deep emotion, expressed his regret that he was not a revivalist, and as he did so a feeling of loving remonstrance rose in the minds of some of his hearers, who had themselves been greatly blessed under his ministry. His former pupils join with him in the longing to be made clean vessels, 'meet for the Master's use.' Mr. Jenkins compared the present with the past of Methodism, and was full of encouragement. He did not believe that piety or that preaching power had decreased amongst us, but the reverse. He longed to go back to his circuit a revival preacher. He who would do so must be a thorough student of the New Testament and of men, and must go into the pulpit bathed with the influences of the Holy Ghost; he must, like Paul, reason of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Mr. Geden added a few words of like purport, showing how intense study and prayer must be combined with the performance of pulpit and pastoral duties. At the close of the conversation, on the suggestion of the President, the Conference resolved that at the September district meetings an additional day or session shall be devoted to similar exercises as those in which the Conference had just been engaged, and that the next quarterly fast day shall be observed as one of special humiliation and prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost."

A CONGRESS OF OLD "CATHOLICS."

The *Baden Landeszeitung* gives the following information with respect to the preliminary meeting of the Old Catholics at Heidelberg, on the first Saturday and Sunday in August:—Professor Huber apologised for the absence of Professor Friedrich and Dr. von Döllinger, both of whom were prevented from attending. The latter gentleman is at present at Tutzing, in the Bavarian Highlands. He is engaged in preparing a work which is to serve as an exhaustive reply to all the attacks made upon him, since he finds it impossible to answer each pamphlet as it appears. After giving these explanations, Professor Huber submitted to the meeting a draft showing the form in which it was proposed that the movement should be organised. A great congress will be held at Munich towards the end of September, which is to last three days and include both public and consultative sittings. In the last meetings the aims and purposes of the movement will be distinctly stated, and an invitation to join it published. Professor von Schulte, of Prague, has promised to speak on this occasion on the infallibility of the Pope. He will endeavour to prove that the new dogma has entirely destroyed the organisation of the Church. A number of other eminent men will speak, and it is open to every one to address the Congress, on condition of his submitting the discourse he intends to deliver to the consideration of the committee fourteen days beforehand. Everything will be avoided that could tend to countenance the idea that ecclesiastical innovations are intended. In the second sitting, Mr. Anton, of Vienna, informed the meeting that the leaders of the movement in Austria and Hungary desired to act in harmony with those of Germany. In his opinion there is every reason to expect success in Austria. In four days after the publication of his address he received communications from more than a thousand families in Vienna who agreed with his views. He hopes to be able to form a congregation in the course of a few weeks. Letters had also been received from Silesia, Styria, Hungary, &c., expressing warm sympathy with the movement. The speaker then asked whether the German leaders intended to confine themselves to opposing the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope, or whether they were prepared, while preserving their essentially Catholic character, to introduce further reforms into the Church. The persons at the head of the Austrian movement proposed to adopt the latter course. They intended to reform the liturgy and the dogmata of the Church, and to give the lay element a fuller participation in ecclesiastical matters than had hitherto been granted it. Mr. Keller, of Aarau, Switzerland, put a similar question. In Switzerland the sovereign people would have a

voice in deciding the matter. In the original cantons all was still dark, but in other parts all thinking Catholics were opposed to the infallibility of the Pope. He was convinced that if ten priests had the courage openly to express their real opinions, all would go on well. The Jesuits had formerly accused the educated classes of indifference to religious matters, but now that the ancient creed and constitution of the Church were threatened, they found them earnest, united, and resolute. The speaker blamed the clergy and the bishops, whom he accused of servility and subservience to the Jesuits. Mr. Beck, of Heidelberg, believed that a separation from the infallible Pope was the most important matter. The reconstruction of the Church might safely be left to the future. The Old Catholics formed the true Church, with which the New Catholics had nothing in common. The Legislature must determine their proper position. Several speakers replied to the questions of the gentlemen from Austria and Switzerland, by referring to the Munich Whitsuntide declaration, and to the reply of Dr. von Döllinger to the Hungarians, in which the reforms they advocate are approved. Mr. Anton and Mr. Keller expressed themselves satisfied. Mr. Brosi, a member of the Swiss committee of action, said it was proposed to summon a Swiss congress in September, and hoped it would be attended by Germans. The organisation of the movement was then discussed. Munich was chosen as the centre, and it was resolved that a fund should be formed for the purpose of carrying out the intentions of the Old Catholics, as well as for the support of priests who had been deprived of their benefices on account of their convictions, and the distribution of pamphlets.

The Conference of the German bishops will be held at Fulda on the 5th of Sept.

THE CURE OF SOULS BY PURCHASE.

The Bishop of Manchester, preaching a day or two since at a church restoration service in his diocese, said:—"On all sides we might see evidences of an awakened spread of liberality, and thus a long-standing reproach against Churchmen had been in great part wiped away. Yet even now, when there was no good in closing our eyes at patent facts, it could hardly be said that all was as it should be in the Church of England. Unkindly eyes were upon them, spying out their nakedness and exaggerating with no friendly spirit their shortcomings and failings. No true lover of his Church or of his country ought to wish to perpetuate any one proved abuse for a single day. The Roman historian—who lived in the dawn of what was sometimes called the Augustan Age, which had imposed upon later ages its gilded and flimsy imperialism—looking deeper than the surface, complained that he lived in an age which neither tolerated its vices nor their remedies. It was sinking, crushed to the ground in its manifold vices, and yet would not bear the surgeon's knife nor the relieving remedy. Some people thought that we in England had reached our culminating point of prosperity, and were now on the downward road of national decline. He hoped, however, if we felt our vices, and felt also they were getting to a head, we had not yet reached the stage at which we would not tolerate remedies. Let all, then, with bold and fearless hands, apply the remedy while we can. He would only touch upon one point more, as it seemed to him a very patent and conspicuous evil in the Church of England at the present day. In virtue of his bishopric he was patron to that living (Haltwhistle). In fact, he was what was called, in the eye of the law, the patron of the benefice. Now, they would doubtless all have thought it strange conduct, or an unseemly thing, if his predecessor had sold the patronage of the living for 3,000l. or 4,000l., and then paid the money to his own account at the bank. They would soon have said it was a bad thing, and a scandal on the bishop. Why? Because the bishop, the patron of the living, held a high and solemn trust; but if a lay patron were to sell a living, nothing whatever would be thought of it. Everybody must be more or less acquainted with those advertisements which appeared from time to time in the London and local newspapers. They were something after this style: 'For sale, a valuable living of so many hundred pounds a year. The incumbent is seventy-four years of age; every prospect, therefore, of immediate succession. The living is in a neighbourhood where there is abundance of good society, near a railway-station; good shooting and fishing can be obtained, and several good packs of hounds hunt in the neighbourhood.' Now, he quite admitted that the advertisement was dressed up by a London auctioneer, who trafficked in such things, and that this was not the language of the vendor, but of his agent. There was no scandal in the Church of England that alienated more, and kept alienated, the great Nonconformist bodies from them—bodies whom it should be the desire of every Churchman to bring back to the fold—than the sight of such things as he had mentioned. In this session of Parliament—a session in which there had been so much well-intended though abortive legislation—a bill had been introduced into the House of Lords to prevent the sale of next presentations. He did not know why it failed, but he certainly hoped it would be brought in again, and that it would be one of the first bills carried. He quite admitted that the evil was much less mischievous in fact than it might be expected to prove, but it was an evil which generated a low conception of the ministerial

office, and one which generated all kinds of technical evasions, which were most demoralising. A patron could by law sell the next presentation to a benefice an hour before the death of the living incumbent, but he could not do so an hour afterwards. What plain man of common sense could understand or explain the distinction or its cause? The whole traffic in Church patronage was an evil, an abuse of a high and solemn trust, and hence, although it had grown up to be a recognised system amongst us, it was so pernicious in its influence that every true well-wisher of the Church ought to desire its removal."

THE GERMAN PROTESTANT CHURCH.

The *Kreuz Zeitung* publishes an article by "an eminent Protestant theologian" in support of a petition addressed to the Emperor of Germany and the other German Sovereigns for a reform of the German Protestant Church. The writer observes that the example of France has shown that "civilisation, industry, intelligence, and wealth do not suffice to preserve a nation from moral and political corruption without the help of the Church," and that Frederick William IV., knowing this, conceived the idea "of separating the spiritual from the temporal power, and transferring the former to the bishops as the guardians and expounders of the faith." The German Sovereigns "derive their right of supremacy in matters of faith from the resolutions of the Diet of Speire in 1526, and from the religious treaty of peace signed at Augsburg in 1555: both of these covenants, however, were only intended to be provisional pending the establishment of a permanent religious agreement at a general meeting of the Church. The Protestant theologians, therefore, only recognise a protective but not a supreme power over the Church in the Sovereigns of Germany." In support of this statement, the author of the petition quotes Luther and other reformers. He thinks that the period of transition should now come to an end, and that a purely ecclesiastical organisation should be established so as to emancipate the Church from the State. As the most effective means of doing this, he proposes that the German Emperor and the other German Sovereigns should first transfer the spiritual power to the bishops and archbishops under a single primate, who would be assisted by a council. The German Governments would then appoint their delegates for drawing up a programme of church administration; conferences of priests and teachers would state their opinion of this programme in writing; a commission of theologians would peruse these opinions and adopt them or not as they might think fit; and a committee appointed by this commission would submit the final draft of the project for the Emperor's sanction. The writer thinks it would take about five years to carry out this plan.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF AND THE PROTESTANT DEPUTATION.

Prince Gortschakoff has published in the Russian official *Government Messenger* of the 11th inst. a report addressed by him to the Emperor on his conference with the Protestant delegates who had come from England, America, and other countries to solicit redress for the grievances of the Germans in the Baltic provinces. Many members of the deputation, he says, made very long speeches, and, although he considered it his duty as a matter of politeness to listen to them patiently, he "will not venture to expose his Majesty to a similar fatigue." The speakers declared that their visit had no political character, and begged the Prince to obtain for them an interview with the Emperor, in order to present him with three addresses: one from the American Protestants; one, drawn up in London, from the Protestants of Europe; and the third "from some Quakers." The Prince observed in reply that the Emperor, like his predecessors, had always adhered to the principles of religious toleration and liberty of conscience; the confidence in His Majesty unanimously expressed by the members of the deputation was therefore a sufficient guarantee of his sentiments, and it was impossible for him to offer them any other guarantee. He added, in regard to the suggestions made by some of the speakers for an alteration in certain of the imperial laws, that Russia could not permit any foreign interference in such matters. "However important the declaration that no political object is aimed at may be—and I am ready to believe in the entire sincerity of this declaration—the mere fact of a deputation composed of the representatives of various nations having come to His Majesty with such loudly professed objects would have the appearance of an intervention in our internal affairs; and we cannot permit even the shadow of such an intervention from any quarter whatever. This declaration," proceeds the Prince, "was received with profound regret, which, however, was expressed in respectful terms." He then declared his readiness to present the American address to the Emperor, upon which the delegate from Geneva asked that the London address might be presented also. This, however, the Prince "most positively" declined to do, on the ground that the assertions contained in the London address about the Church in Esthonia and Livonia rested on "either false or incomplete information," which appeared to him "derived from partial sources, whose trustworthiness must inspire doubt." He then suggested that it would be better not to present the Emperor with any address at all, and this suggestion was accepted by the deputation, who, however, asked for a statement in

writing of the intentions of the Government on the subject. But Prince Gortschakoff was not to be caught. He was averse, he said, to "all unnecessary written declarations," and he considered it sufficient to have stated the convictions and principles of His Majesty. The meeting then separated; and the Prince observes, in conclusion, that he did not perceive in the delegates "any signs of irritation, though the consciousness of failure was evident." Notwithstanding this, two English and two American members of the deputation, whom he met on the following day, "fervently expressed their recognition of the way in which they had been received, and said that they had just telegraphed to the *Times* an account of their impressions, and of the confidence with which they had been inspired in the lofty qualities of His Imperial Majesty."

PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL AT ROME.

Father Gavazzi, the other day, delivered a lecture in the Metropolitan Hall, Dublin, to a large and attentive audience, his subject being the progress of the Gospel in Ireland and Rome. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Thomas Scott. In the course of his lecture the rev. gentleman said:—

After the downfall of the first French Empire, Protestants were permitted to worship according to their Protestant creeds, but outside of the gates of Rome. I say that the Papal Government would never allow any Protestant place of worship within Rome. Even now they are outside of Rome, two English churches, an American church, and two Scotch churches, and they do not appear to any visitor to be places of worship, but rather old rough barns. That is, then, your Protestantism in Rome. That proves that the gates of Rome are closed against the preaching of the Word of God. Therefore, it must look like a triumph to see now those gates opened to the Gospel, and the preachers of the Gospel going into the Eternal City in spite of all Papal remonstrances, preaching freely, openly, fearlessly, and publicly the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in spite of the infallibility of the Pope. (Applause.) But it is what must be called the triumph of the Gospel. We have tried to preach the Gospel in all Italy, and I can say that, under the blessing of God, we have succeeded in establishing one hundred congregations, with ten thousand communicants and three hundred thousand catechumens. (Applause.) We wished to bring the Gospel into Rome, and it was brought. What we could not succeed in obtaining by fighting, thanks to God, we have obtained only two months after the declaration of infallibility—namely, the downfall of the temporal power of the Pope and the opening of the gates of Rome to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Loud applause.) Where previous to those days you could not find in Rome one single place of Christian worship, now we have several, and foreign Protestants have places of worship for their own people. We have now in Rome five regular congregations—two of the Free Church, of which I am an evangelist; one of the Waldensians, and one of the Baptists. We have those congregations spread over a large area, so that we occupy almost all the quarters of Rome, and we can fairly say that the Romans are now everywhere preaching the Word of God. (Applause.) We have commenced the public administration of the sacrament and baptism, and I had the pleasure and privilege of giving the first Lord's Supper in Rome on Easter-day. (Applause.) Therefore we are in full triumph. Then we have the guarantee for the future, as I have already explained, and we have our schools. The Pope of Rome has held very strongly to the education and instruction of the people. Pius IX., in his last syllabus, has condemned popular education. Therefore it is the infallible doing of an infallible Pope. But you must understand that no schools were in Rome before the entrance of the Italian army except the few that were under the control and in the hands of the priests, friars, monks, and nuns. Now, all that is almost gone, and twenty-seven schools have been opened in Rome in less than three months. We have our own day and night schools for boys and girls, and our Sunday-schools cheerfully attended. (Applause.) Therefore, you will easily understand that we are preparing in Rome that second generation of Christians who, being now born, shall be converted to Christianity from Popery, and who, being brought up in Christian schools, will be staunch Christians, always ready to stand against persecution. (Loud applause.) Now, let it be repeated ever so much—it is never too much repeated—that when I left Rome in 1849 there was not a single Bible in circulation there. The Bible was not only a forbidden book, but it was the forbidden book. To sell a Bible was a crime visited by the Papal laws with five years' imprisonment. Since 1849 some of your ladies had to incur trials, mortifications, insults, some of them penalties, for having in their possession on entering Rome an English Bible for their own private use; all which things will prove to you that the Bible in Rome was a forbidden book. Now the Bible is a free book in Rome. We have eight colporteurs selling it without difficulty everywhere. (Applause.) They sell them publicly in the market squares everywhere, and several thousand copies are already in circulation amongst the Romans. (Loud applause.) There is another great fact—namely, that an English lady has sold two thousand copies of the New Testament in a quarter exclusively occupied by Jews. (Hear.) That is a great triumph. (Applause.) More than that, I can point out to you a standing triumph which defies all the impotent rage of the Pope. Do not forget that the Bible was in Rome the forbidden book. Now, when you enter Rome, and pass that great and beautiful square called the *Corso*, which is the largest in the city, the first thing you meet is a beautiful shop, neatly fitted up, with a large inscription in golden letters, "General Depot of the London Bible Society." (Enthusiastic cheers.) That is something. The Bible, once forbidden in Rome, is now sold in a large and beautiful depot, in the largest street, in immense variety, in all languages. (Applause.) That is something new and extraordinary for Rome. (Hear, hear.) But there is a culminating point in the transaction. That shop faces the Vatican, which stands on the other side. (Laughter and cheers.) Even without an opera-glass the Pope can see the General Depot of the London Bible Society. (Loud laughter.) So we can without any exaggeration say that the Gospel is now extending

within the walls of the Eternal City in spite of the Pope. (Applause.)

A Roman letter in the *Boston Congregationalist* says that besides the several foreign chapels at Rome, which have only an indirect influence in reaching and moulding the Italians, there are four distinct organisations already at work—viz., the Free Church of Italy, the Waldenses, the Baptists, and the Methodists. In addition to these influences, there are individuals, who, acquainted with Italian affairs, have either struck out their own paths, or been drawn into them by the pressure of circumstances.

Most visitors at Rome have heard of the Sunday evening gatherings for singing at the house of Dr. Gould, who had practised medicine in the city for some years. Several weeks ago his wife opened a school for Italian children. There is no doubt she might number her pupils by hundreds if she could take care of them. From various sources she has collected twelve hundred francs for the support of the school, and is confident of being able to raise all that will be needed to secure its permanence. Her design is to make it a kind of Kindergarten, which, by its attractiveness, shall draw the children into it.

Among the prominent workers in Rome is a Miss Burton, who laboured for some years with the Italian navvies employed on the railroads in Switzerland. Since 1864 she has spent her time among the soldiers in Italy, distributing tracts to fifteen regiments, and teaching many to read. While thus engaged she has been mobbed on several occasions for tracts, in a friendly way, by the Jews of the Ghetto, where there are some 5,000 Israelites, and she could not give them out fast enough for the crowds of men, women, and children who pressed to receive them.

Miss Burton has sold in the Ghetto fifteen hundred gospels. And with a just appreciation of the Jewish character, she has also distributed several Hebrew Bibles, feeling assured that for the sake of the Old they would not tear up the New Testament bound with it. The Rev. Mr. Wall, of the Baptist church, has been engaged in the same work, and Miss Burton is frequently accosted with, "Are you a friend of the tall man with the red beard that circulates the Gospel of St. John?" "Oh, yes." "All right, then; give me some of your books." Policemen are sometimes sent with her as a protection, and she is often taken into the shops by some friendly person when the crowd is getting too demonstrative. These Jews distinguish most clearly between Romanism and Protestantism, saying of Miss Burton: "She is no idolater; she only believes that Christ is God." When distributing the gospels near St. Paul's, the priests have sometimes seized and burned her books, saying: "This is the woman that sells bad books. We'll show you what we think of them." But in spite of this, the Jews through the Protestant places of worship to hear the new doctrine. Father Gavazzi has had two hundred and fifty of them at one time in his congregation. And although curiosity may lead them now, it is to be hoped this will soon give place to deeper and better motives.

THE SWISS PROTESTANTS.

The *Swiss Times* states that the thirty-first anniversary of the Swiss Pastoral Society opened on the 9th inst. at Schaffhausen, and continued sitting for three days. The *Pall Mall Gazette* summarises the proceedings. Two hundred and ten Protestant ministers assembled from the different cantons, and were received with much cordiality and lodged in different households. As is usual, on the evening of their arrival, a private meeting was held by the delegates of the different cantons, and afterwards the general reception took place in the Casino Garden. On Tuesday morning M. Schenkel, of Schaffhausen, gave an interesting address on the necessity of peace among all members of the Church, but especially of its ministers, notwithstanding their differences of opinion. The society then adjourned to the magnificent new school-houses to hold further meetings. After an interesting opening address from the president, M. Metzger, the first subject for consideration was that of Dr. Finster on the important question, "What is the actual position of the Reformed Church, having regard to its present constitution?" The speaker, in a long and eloquent speech, gave a sketch of what, in his opinion, the Church ought to be. His views may be thus summarised:—1st. The Church ought to be organised on a basis of perfect freedom from State control, and ought never to demand from the State the employment of force. 2nd. The Church ought to acknowledge and profess full and entire liberty, both for religious teaching and religious belief, and should have neither a formulary nor any written confession of faith. 3rd. The Church is composed of all those who have been baptized, and who have, when come to years of discretion, shown their desire to remain in its fold. It ought to be constituted on the parochial system, and to have the right to elect a synod or consistory, the members of which should have exclusive jurisdiction in all religious and ecclesiastical matters, but the State should have one representative in this body. In conclusion, Dr. Finster expressed himself as being strongly opposed to the plan of a National Swiss Church, but warmly recommended that the cantonal churches should act in concert on all matters of importance. The ministers who spoke after Dr. Finster agreed in the main with his conclusions, but did not explicitly state on what points they differed from him.

On Wednesday the subject treated was, "What position ought the Church to take upon the workmen's question?" The Rev. Dr. Becker, of Linththal, made a deep and thoughtful speech on this subject, which was listened to with profound attention. The following were its main conclusion:—

This subject has made great and startling progress

during the last few years, for it is intimately bound up with the still greater social question, to the solution of which we, as ministers, ought to bend our utmost energies. We must work without ceasing to improve the present system of education, and endeavour, above all, to give to the rising generation not only intellectual but also religious instruction. We must organise meetings for the adults, and do all in our power to found institutions, such as savings-banks and co-operative stores, which will tend to improve the condition of the working classes, and, while following the example of our great Master, we must aid those who are in want, and make friends of those who possess none of this world's riches. We must also place ourselves in communication with the principals of the great houses of commerce, who are so powerful now-a-days, and point out to them, with plainness, the material, intellectual, and religious wants of their workmen. We must, lastly, fight energetically against infidelity and self-gratification of every kind, and endeavour to establish between masters and men a spirit of real justice and Christian love.

This address gave rise to an animated discussion, a speech made by M. W. Joos, National Councillor, being much applauded, and ultimately a resolution was carried embodying the views of Dr. Becker.

Each day, after the conclusion of the meeting, the members of the society dined at the "Turnhalle" in company with several of the magistrates of the city; who on the first day invited the society to pay a visit to the falls of the Rhine; and on the second gave a *soirée* in their honour in the shady woods of Stand, where the proceedings were varied by music and complimentary speeches.

CHURCH AND STATE IN AMERICA.

The following is the second letter of Dr. J. P. Thompson, of New York, in reply to Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., who labours under the delusion that America is not more free than England from the intermingling of ecclesiastical and civil affairs:—

To Thomas Hughes, Esq., M.P.

Sir,—The view of Mr. Cheney's case given in my former letter has been confirmed within a few days by a correspondence between the bishop of the Episcopal Church in Illinois and the wardens of Christ Church, Chicago, of which Mr. Cheney is or claims to be the rector. The bishop treats Christ Church as a vacant parish. By his episcopal authority, upon the finding of his own "ecclesiastical court," he has forbidden Mr. Cheney to exercise the functions of a minister in the Protestant Episcopal Church; and, though fully aware that Mr. Cheney continues to pray, preach, and administer the sacraments in Christ Church, as heretofore, the bishop ignores him as its rector, and addresses all his official notices to that church through its wardens. On the 8th of July he notified the wardens of his intention to hold an episcopal visitation of the church on Sunday, Aug. 13th, saying,—"Inasmuch as the parish of Christ Church is now without a rector, it becomes the duty of the churchwardens to give public notice of my intention to visit the church." To this the wardens made answer that "the parish of Christ Church, Chicago, long since settled over it as rector the Rev. Charles Edward Cheney, and the relation between this parish and that clergyman has not been dissolved." Assuring the bishop that he is mistaken in supposing that the parish is without a rector, and coolly informing him that the Rev. Mr. Cheney "is a minister of the Church in good standing," the wardens decline to receive the bishop at the time designated by him, but add: "Whatever arrangements may be made for a visitation at another time, the wardens will take pleasure in affording their rector such assistance in making preparation for it as their office may require." From this you will perceive that Mr. Cheney's strength lies not in the protection of any court, civil or ecclesiastical, but in the determination of his parish to stand by him in his quarrel with his bishop. There is no civil court in Illinois by which the bishop can enforce his episcopal authority against his recalcitrant presbyter, and there is no law or officer nor court in the State of Illinois that could or would give effect to the decision of the bishop's "ecclesiastical court," simply as such; and no church court in the State can enforce its own decisions by civil pains and penalties. In a word, the case of Mr. Cheney does not show, as you had imagined, that "ecclesiastical courts are indispensable even in Illinois"; but, on the contrary, it shows that nothing analogous to the union of Church and State exists in that State. And what is true of Illinois is true of every other State. Christ Church and Mr. Cheney could be made to feel the arm of the State only by an action brought by some member or members of the parish, upon the ground that the parish property has been perverted from the true uses of the Episcopal Church. That would be a question of fact for the courts to decide, as in any case of contract or usage, written or implied.

I pass now to your second misapprehension, which confounds the recognition of religious beliefs in some of our State constitutions with the notion of an established religion. I do not wonder, sir, at your confusion here; for upon this point there is much diversity among our constitutions, and it is not easy to lay down a principle which defines the relation of religion to civil affairs. There is such a thing as political ethics. You say, with force and justice, that "a nation, as well as a man, has a conscience as well as a stomach"; and, hence, you add, "our American cousins have failed and must fail in the attempt to reach the absolute separation of things secular and things holy." But this is a distinct thing from the organic separation of the State from the Church, in all their several functions, which we have reached in all these United States, and to which we mean to adhere as the settled policy of the nation.

Our colonies grew up under such various circumstances and conditions that prior to the Revolution a diversity of usages obtained as to the relation of the Church to the State. The original Plymouth colony was much more liberal in this matter than were some later colonies in New England. The colony of New Haven, for instance, declared that church-members only should be free burgesses; a requirement that passed away when that colony was united with the colony of Connecticut. But the Plymouth colonists, though requiring moral qualifications for the elective franchise, never made

church-membership a condition of political office, or of the right to vote. As far back as 1648 the churches of New England, in synod assembled, declared that, "as it is unlawful for Church officers to meddle with the sword of the magistrate, so it is unlawful for the magistrate to meddle with the work proper to Church officers." In the colony of Virginia the Church of England was established by law, and everybody was taxed for its support. Severe laws were enacted to exclude Puritans from the colony. New York had various experiences, under different types of government, and according to the caprices of her royal governors. But by the time of the Revolution the colonies had pretty much emancipated themselves from the spirit and the idea of a religious establishment, though in some of them traces of it lingered in form for some time after. For instance, the charter of Connecticut was so liberal, that after the Revolution it continued to be the constitution of the State; but under this there was a *quasi* establishment of the Congregational or "standing" order, never oppressive to anybody, but an incongruity of which the State rid itself half a century ago. A study of this previous colonial history will in part explain how it is that in many of our State constitutions, to borrow Mr. Disraeli's phrase, you "recognise some religious expression." Some new States have followed in this particular the constitutions of older States. This "religious expression," however, is often but an antiquated phrase or a dead letter. Sometimes it is simply the normal expression of what you have aptly styled the conscience of the nation. It is not the *dictum* of any Church, much less of a State religion.

Nothing of this sort implies a union of Church and State, or tends in that direction. The first amendment to the constitution of the United States, quoted in my last, expresses the verdict of the American people against any sort of religious establishment. The movement, to which you refer, for inserting a recognition of God in the preamble to the Constitution originated with the Scotch Presbyterians, and is not sustained by the great body of Christians of other communions. But such a formal recognition of the Supreme Being as is found in some State constitutions does not proceed from the spirit of an ecclesiastical establishment, nor does it argue a tendency toward such an establishment. Where Christian morality enters into the tissue of our legislation, this is not as related to or proceeding from a church; but as *morality*, which is recognised by the conscience of the nation as necessary to the well-being of society. The right of worship, the sanctity of the oath, &c., have obtained recognition upon the same broad principle, and not through the genius of a Church Establishment.

The Supreme Court of Ohio has defined this point in an important decision. "Acts evil in their nature, or dangerous to the public welfare, may be forbidden and punished, though sanctioned by one religion and prohibited by another; but this creates no preference whatever, for they would be equally forbidden and punished if all religions permitted them. Thus, no plea of religion could shield a murderer, a raviager, or a bigamist, for the community would be at the mercy of superstition if such crimes as these could be committed with impunity because sanctioned by some religious delusion."

In drawing this letter to a close, permit me to refer you to Buck's "Ecclesiastical Law of Massachusetts," Hoffman's "Ecclesiastical Law in the State of New York," and Cooley's "Constitutional Limitations." You will there find the unanimous voice of our judiciary, to the effect that "structure of our Government has, for the preservation of civil liberty, rescued the temporal institutions from religious interference; and, on the other hand, it has secured religious liberty from the invasion of the civil authority."

From a careful analysis, Mr. Cooley shows that the following things are not lawful under any of our State constitutions:—

1. Any law respecting an establishment of religion.
2. Compulsory support, by taxation or otherwise, of religious instruction.
3. Compulsory attendance upon religious worship.
4. Restraints upon the free exercise of religion according to the dictates of the conscience.
5. Restraints upon the expression of religious belief.

The agitation in New York against the support of sectarian schools by the State shows how thoroughly the people are committed to these principles. Political demagogues, courting the votes of Irish Catholics, have attempted to pervert the money of the State to sectarian uses. The abuse has gone on for some time unchecked; but, now that the people are awake to the danger of legislation in the interest of a sect, they will suppress the mischief as readily as they suppressed the Roman Catholic mob in New York on the 12th of last July.

You may be assured that in these United States, and in each and every one of them, State and Church have been finally and for ever divorced. Asking only that you will consider these suggestions in the same spirit of courtesy in which they are offered, I remain, sir, with high consideration,

Yours truly,

JOS. P. THOMPSON.

New York, Aug. 1, 1871.

P.S.—The Congregationalists have not, as you suppose, "re-enacted the Savoy Confession." The Boston Council simply declared their adherence *substantially* to the faith therein set forth; but avowed most explicitly that they "acknowledge no *rules of faith* but the Word of God."

A national religion is as ridiculous as a national arithmetic or a national astronomy.—*Count A. De Gasparin.*

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. Robert Johnstone, minister of Logie parish, after delivering a speech at the meeting of the Dunblane Established Church Presbytery, on Tuesday, sank down in a fit and died.

THE CHURCH DEFENCE INSTITUTION.—The *John Bull* states that during the past week the Archbishop of Canterbury has accepted the office of President of the Church Defence Institution, and that the Bishops of London and Llandaff, the the Archdeacon of Buckingham, Prolocutor of and

Lower House of Convocation, have been elected Vice-Presidents. The Archdeacon of Westminster, the Revs. S. J. Bardsley and W. D. MacLagan, have also been added to the Executive Committee.

"ADVANCED" THINKERS.—The following advertisement appeared in the *Daily News* a few days ago:—"An author wishes to start an Affirmative, Theological, Philosophical, and Critical Magazine in the spirit of generous belief in Nature and Providence, and seeks co-operation from thoughtful students."

BAITING MR. GLADSTONE.—A correspondence has been published between the Edinburgh Anti-Papal League and Mr. Gladstone, in which the former asserts that Mr. Gladstone was seen, when in Corfu some years ago, to kneel within the railings of a church, and demands whether he is not a member of the Church of Rome. Mr. Gladstone replies that the story is false, and the secretary rejoins that if he does not receive a further reply, he shall consider silence an acknowledgment of the charge.

THE NEW ACT ON PRIVATE CHAPELS.—The Act, which received the Royal assent on Monday, was printed yesterday to amend and define the law relating to private chapels. A bishop may license a clergyman within whose diocese any chapel belonging to any college, school, hospital, asylum, or public or charitable institution is situate, whether consecrated or unconsecrated, to perform certain duties, except the solemnisation of marriage, and may revoke such license. The offertory and alms collected at the chapels shall be disposed of as the minister thereof shall determine, subject to the direction of the Ordinary.

"THE OCCASIONAL SERMONS BILL."—Such is the title of the bill brought in by Mr. Cowper-Temple and Mr. Thomas Hughes, which was never discussed in the House of Commons owing to the lack of time, and was withdrawn. Upon the proposals contained in it we commented at some length in a recent number. The first clause provides that it shall be lawful for a bishop, on the application of the incumbent or officiating minister of any church or chapel belonging to the Church of England within his diocese, to grant, if he shall think fit, permission under his hand to any person, although he is not in holy orders of that Church, to preach an occasional sermon or lecture in such church or chapel; and thereupon it is to be lawful for such person so to preach, on the incumbent's invitation, without making any subscription under the Clerical Subscription Act of 1865. The second clause provides that such occasional sermon or lecture may be preached either after any of the services in the Prayer-book have been read, or without the previous reading of such services.

THE NEW DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S.—The Rev. R. W. Church, rector of Whatley, Somersetshire, has been appointed to the vacant Deanery of St. Paul's Cathedral. Mr. Church, after a distinguished career at the University of Oxford, took his degree in first-class honours in 1836, and shortly afterwards became Fellow of Oriel, at that time one of the most coveted distinctions in the University. In 1854 Mr. Church published a volume of essays, which stamped him at once as one of the most cultivated scholars and one of the most graceful writers of the day. Two of the essays in the volume are a review of Anselm's life, and have since been expanded into a "Life of St. Anselm," and published as a separate volume. Three years ago Mr. Church published a volume of University sermons on the relations between Christianity and civilisation, which have attracted a good deal of attention. He has taken no prominent part in the controversies, political or religious, of the day, but he has done much in a quiet way towards reconciling the old Conservatism of Oxford with the liberal requirements of the age in which we live.—*Times*.

CATHEDRAL REFORM.—The choir of Gloucester Cathedral was reopened on Sunday, after having been closed for three years, and after having in the interim been beautified at a cost which, in the end, will be at least 13,000*l.* of the 45,000*l.* which is Mr. Scott's original estimate for the complete restoration of the cathedral. The preacher of the morning was the bishop of the diocese, who dwelt upon the imposing ceremonial that had been witnessed within those walls during the seven hundred and seventy-one years that had passed since the first abbot entered one summer's morning in solemn procession. There had been the crowning of a Plantagenet king, the burial of a hapless successor, and the assembling of Convocation. The bishop then referred to those who thought the Church of England would soon be reduced to the level of a sect among sects, and the venerable cathedrals and ancient parish churches placed at the disposal of every competing body of Christians or religionists. His opinion was that the English Church would stand all trial. In the course of his sermon Dr. Ellicott said: Let every cathedral more and more strive to free itself from its half-inherited, half-adopted collegiate system, from its closes and seclusions, and make itself not only the mother church of the city, but the parish church of the diocese, and then let it fearlessly face any trial which the stirring times in which we live may think fit to apply to it. It will stand the trial easily and securely, and will emerge from it stronger and more consolidated than before. Thank God, there is a feeling everywhere showing itself, not only among those without, but among those within, that these our noble buildings may be made more available for public worship, for holy and dignified services, and for spiritual and effective preaching.

MR. VOYSEY AND HIS LATE PARISHIONERS.—The Rev. Charles Voysey delivered a farewell address on Sunday evening week to his late parishioners at Healagh. After stating his views at some length, he said:—"I cannot leave you without some notice of the ungenerous attacks made upon me for having clung to my position in the Church of England until driven out of it by law. On my honour, I can assure you, in the first place, that I was uncertain whether the law would go against me or not. Had I succeeded in further widening the liberties of the clergy, nothing but acclamations of applause would have followed; but my failure has, as usual, been turned into a weapon of reproach. Some have foolishly supposed that I held on to the Church for the leaves and fishes, not knowing that the first seven years of my clerical life were devoted to the Church for nothing, and that out of the remaining twelve years I never had, except for one year in Jamaica, an income from the Church of more than a pitiful £100 to £120 a year—scarcely a third of what I needed for bread for my family—and that I refused offers of chapels with an income four times as large as this living. Others, again, have said that I held on to the Church for the advantages of the social position of a clergyman. I beg to remind these that the position of a clergyman added nothing at all to the social rank which I occupied before I took orders, and which I now carry away with me, and which I shall continue to retain. My sole object was to liberate the clergy and to break their bonds. All history testifies that reforms must come from within, and are next to impossible when attempted from without. The most solemn of all my obligations was not that of agreement with the Thirty-nine Articles (which every one knows are contradictory to each other and to parts of the Prayer-book), but it was when I promised by God's grace 'to instruct the people committed to my charge out of the Holy Scriptures, and to teach nothing as required of necessity for eternal salvation but that which I myself was persuaded could be concluded and proved by the Scripture.' I am not careful to answer my accusers in this matter. I leave God to answer for me whether or not I have done my best to fulfil this my most sacred vow and pledge. Any one among all the 15,000 clergy of this Church of ours could be likewise condemned and deprived if the machinery of the law were to be set in motion against him, and he were to be tried without prejudice and without favour. If not, how comes it that the most opposite opinions and doctrines are still taught in our pulpits? If one set be in accordance with the law, the opposite set cannot be. As Dean Stanley says—'We should all have to go out, from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the humblest curate in the wilds of Cumberland.'

Religious and Denominational News.

Sir Francis Lycett has added to his former gifts a sum of 1,200*l.* a year for the support of four additional ministers in the cause with which he is connected.

BUCKINGHAM.—The Congregational Church in this town have just presented their pastor, the Rev. H. F. Holmes, with a very handsome set of pulpit robes, as an expression of their affectionate esteem and appreciation of his ministry.

THE REV. CHARLES VINCE.—We regret to hear that the Rev. Charles Vince, of Birmingham, has been suddenly prostrated by nervous debility, produced by overwork. His illness, which at first was alarming, has happily proved less serious than was feared, and his strength is gradually returning. When he returns to his work, he is ordered to confine himself for some months to home duties exclusively.

NEW CHAPEL AT STOCKWELL.—The *South London Press* says:—"We are glad to hear that the piece of ground at the corner of Jeffrey's-road, Clapham-road, which we recently referred to as being available for a church or chapel, is to be the site of a new Independent church. It is said that the cost of the ground is one thousand two hundred pounds, and that a moiety of that sum has already been subscribed by the members and congregation of Stockwell-green Independent Chapel. The selection of the spot is exceedingly judicious, for there is no Independent church in the immediate neighbourhood. We wish the Rev. David Thomas success in his efforts, and trust he will have the advantage of a church not less commodious than the Presbyterian church almost adjoining the site in question."

EASTBOURNE.—THE CONGREGATIONAL BAZAAR. —The bazaar held in Mr. Diplock's Assembly-room last week, in connection with the Congregational church, realised, by sales and donations, 305*l.* 10*s.* Donations in money towards the same object had been previously received amounting to 80*l.*, making in all the goodly sum of 385*l.* 10*s.* The contributions were so numerous and valuable that an excellent stock remains, sufficient to furnish several large stalls handsomely, and it is in contemplation to reopen the sale in the Congregational schoolroom this week. A spirit of earnest challenge has sprung up among the visitors, many of whom have in past years liberally aided the establishment of the Congregational church and who now are desirous of clearing off the debt. One gentleman offers 1*l.* towards raising a visitors' fund of 50*l.* This has already been responded to to the extent of 7*l.* Another gentleman offers 10*l.* to complete the work by Michaelmas. A third promises the last 30*l.* if the debt be paid this year. The remaining stock is

valued at 100*l.* It is possible, therefore, by a combined effort to extinguish the remaining 300*l.* this season.

BIRMINGHAM.—The foundation-stone of the Welsh Independent chapel, Wheeler-street, Birmingham, was laid, August 8th, by J. A. Cooper, Esq., F.R.S.L. After a portion of Scripture had been read by the Rev. W. F. Callaway, and a prayer offered by the Rev. W. Scriven, the Rev. J. Lewis, pastor, read a paper which contained a short history of the church since its formation. Though the church is small and all the members are of the working class, they have subscribed 200*l.*, and promised to raise 300*l.* more within a short time. The cost of the chapel and schools will be about 1,100*l.* The pastor concluded by presenting Mr. Cooper with a silver trowel. After laying the stone, Mr. Cooper delivered an address. The collection on behalf of the building fund amounted to 33*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* In the schoolroom the Rev. W. Scriven, Rev. W. F. Callaway, Rev. E. Roberts, Rev. J. Lewis, J. A. Cooper, Esq., E. Mander, Esq., and others, took part in the proceedings.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SLEAFORD.—This church was formed in the year 1771, and it has been determined to commemorate the centenary by a movement to secure the erection of a suitable schoolroom and the liquidation of the remaining debt on the chapel. In order to this 1,800*l.* will be required. A meeting of members and friends was held on Thursday last at the Villa, the residence of Thomas Simpson, Esq., who hospitably entertained them with tea on the lawn. After tea addresses were delivered by the Revs. W. Tidd Matson, the pastor, J. H. Brown, of Roxholm, and T. Simpson, Esq. Mr. Simpson impressed on the assembly the importance of the movement, and promised, on condition of 800*l.* being raised among the friends and well-wishers to the cause before the expiration of twelve months, that he would take the remaining 1,000*l.* upon himself.

THE HOME AND SCHOOL FOR THE SONS AND ORPHANS OF MISSIONARIES.—The twenty-ninth anniversary of this institution was held in the schoolroom at Blackheath on the evening of July 29th. The chair was occupied by N. Griffiths, Esq. The report of the committee, read by the Rev. J. Stent, showed that sixty-seven sons of missionaries are now in the house; that during the year the health of the establishment had been undisturbed by any sickness; that during the year 1870 four of the pupils had passed the Oxford, and six the Cambridge Local Examinations—of these one, M. J. M. Hill, son of the Rev. S. J. Hill, of Berhampore, took honours in mathematics and in Scripture, and was first among all the candidates sent to the examinations from London schools. The reports of the examiners of the school were most satisfactory as evidence of the soundness of the education given, and of the discipline in which the school is held. Prizes were distributed by G. H. Davis, Esq., LL.D., secretary of the Religious Tract Society; and addresses were delivered by the Revs. Robert Moffatt, James Anderson, from Jessore; T. J. Paterson, from South Africa; and John Bost, from Laforce. The Rev. J. T. Wigner, of New-cross; Charles White, and T. Field, Esqs., also took part in the evening's engagements. Immediately following the distribution of the prizes, some dialogues and recitations in Greek, Latin, French, and English were admirably rendered by some of the pupils, and a very successful meeting was closed by votes of thanks to the chairman and the head master, E. J. Chinnock, Esq., LL.B.

OLD GRAVEL PIT MEETING-HOUSE, HACKNEY.—Many of our readers are aware that in consequence of the approaching termination of the lease of this time-honoured place of worship, the church and congregation, soon after the settlement of the Rev. Dr. Spence, formerly of the Poultry Chapel, London, as their pastor, determined to erect a new and larger chapel on freehold ground, in the vicinity known as Clapton Park. This was accordingly done at an outlay of upwards of 14,000*l.*, and all parties were looking forward with much hopefulness to a successful future under the ministry of Dr. Spence. Before, however, the time came for opening the place, Dr. Spence was visited with severe and protracted illness, and was compelled to resign his pastorate. Under these circumstances, the church and congregation were led to suppose that the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, would be disposed to consider an invitation to undertake the pastorate among them. Such an invitation was accordingly addressed to Mr. Dale; but as soon as it became known in Birmingham that such a movement was in progress, much feeling was excited not only among Mr. Dale's own people, but among the various religious bodies in the town; and they, supported by many of the municipal authorities and of the influential inhabitants of the place, poured in such a tide of entreaty to Mr. Dale to remain amongst them that he has been completely overwhelmed by expressions of respect and esteem, and has accordingly declined the Clapton Park invitation. This leaves the church and congregation there without a pastor, and they are now anxiously awaiting the advent of some minister, who shall be worthy of the mantle of the former distinguished pastors of this church—and who shall occupy to its fullest extent the important sphere of usefulness which is opening around the new chapel, which is already filled with attentive hearers, and promises to become an important and distinguished position in this favoured locality. It may be stated, also, that besides raising the above-mentioned sum for the new church within three years, this people presented the retiring pastor, the

Rev. Dr. Spence, with above nine hundred pounds, in testimony of their cordial esteem and respect.

HAVERFORDWEST COLLEGE.—The annual meetings in connection with this institution were held on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1 and 2. The Welsh sermon was preached by the Rev. R. A. Jones, of Swansea, from 1 Tim. iv. 16. The English sermon was preached by the Rev. H. Jones, M.A., president of Llangollen College, who in former years was a student at Haverfordwest. The general meeting of members was held on August 2. A considerable number of ministers and laymen from different parts of the country were present. The report spoke in favourable terms of the conduct and diligence of the students, and of the acceptableness of their preaching. The reports of the examiners were also for the most part favourable, though in some cases pointing out defects that need to be remedied. The subjects in which the students were examined were—Theology, Butler, mental philosophy, Greek Testament, Hebrew, patristic and classic Greek. The chief interest of the meeting centred in the question of the financial position of the institution. On the one hand, very little indeed has been received towards the liquidation of the building debt, barely enough to pay the interest for the year, but the annual meeting came to a resolution in reference to this matter which will probably much facilitate the collections for this purpose during the ensuing year. On the other hand, the income this year has been the largest ever received, chiefly arising from the large amount which has been received from students, both ministerial and lay, towards their education. For the first time for several years the income has kept abreast of the expenditure on the current account. In order to meet the heavy balance due on the current account to the late treasurer, Mr. Joseph Thomas, it was decided that the amount due to him should be borrowed on interest, in order that the work of the college might not be stopped, and that a vigorous effort should be made to clear off the remainder of the building debt. Thanks were voted to Mr. Thomas for his kindness in not charging interest on the amount due to him, and for all his other services to the institution. Thanks were also voted to the officers of the college and to the retiring committee; the officers were reappointed and a new committee chosen, not differing very materially from the previous committee. It was announced that the legacy of the late Mrs. Rees, amounting to £711. 5s. 8d., had been received. The treasurer was directed to invest it, and regulations were agreed upon as to the formation of two "Salter scholarships," in accordance with the provisions of the bequest. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Rev. T. Lewis, of Carmarthen, for his services as chairman.

Correspondence.

COMPREHENSION OR DISESTABLISHMENT? To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—While I acknowledge the fair and moderate tone in which your reviewer has spoken of my recently published book, "The Bible and Popular Theology," I think that he has failed in several instances rightly to apprehend my meaning, more especially in his remarks on the last chapter of the work. I would therefore beg you to allow me, in as few words as may be to set my self right with your readers.

Without further preface, I will refer, first, to the words of the article in your last number, in which the writer observes that, in pleading for a comprehensive national Church, I have argued "from a Unitarian standpoint"; and that my proposal amounts to this, "That the Anglicans and Catholics should go out for the Unitarians to come in." Had I really said or implied anything like this, the proposal might well have been characterised not only as "amusing," but as childish or absurd in the highest degree. But I have nowhere done so. While writing, necessarily in accordance with my own religious convictions, I have carefully refrained from putting forward as a sufficient basis for Church communion, any doctrine or principle that could be stigmatised as "Unitarian." I have simply endeavoured to urge that such a basis should be found in some Scriptural principle alone, some fundamental principle that might be expressed in the words of Christ Himself, and would therefore be acceptable to all Christian men alike. Is it possible that your reviewer will maintain that no such principle can be found within the limits of the Christian teaching; and that we must have recourse to extra-Scriptural sources, to find a common basis of Christian fellowship, of Church union? In the latter case, he would confer a benefit, I am sure, upon many of us, if he would inform us where this extra-Scriptural authority is to be found, whether at Rome or in the English Parliament, or at Lambeth, in the deliberations say of the Wesleyan Conference, or in those of a Baptist or Congregational Union.

Your reviewer next proceeds to object to the idea of a common Church "for the nation," on the ground that "the nation is not Christian"; and therefore, he continues, a Church for the whole English people "would not be a Christian Church." Is not this a little captious on his part? I could not have supposed that he, or any one else, would have failed to see that by "a Church for the nation," can only be meant a Church

for the Christian portion of the nation, for that part of the nation which would profess and call itself Christian, and gladly accept the one essential principle of allegiance to Christ. And those that would do this, I believe to include the vast majority of English people who are at all capable of reflecting on the subject.

And yet I acknowledge the very serious character of the difficulty which your reviewer brings into prominence, and which I have myself elsewhere discussed—more largely than I can here. I allude to the circumstance that many in the nation, including, I suppose the "Positivists," would not "profess and call themselves Christians," and would, therefore, be excluded from a national Establishment, built upon a Christian foundation. I do not see, however, that this circumstance affords any conclusive objection to the principle of an Establishment. It is constantly necessary, under a constitution like ours, that the minority shall give way to the majority: and that the majority shall be allowed to make the laws, and regulate the institutions on which, and by which, our common national life is dependent, and expresses itself. It would, and ought to be so, I imagine, in this case of a National Church. Those who do not want such a church would necessarily, by their own act, be excluded from it. Yet it might easily be shown, they would share indirectly in many of its benefits—if only by virtue of their own close connection with a Christian community.

Your reviewer observes that "Professor Huxley and Mr. Mill have declared publicly that Christ's teaching is insufficient as a basis of morality"; and that, therefore, the acceptance of "His words alone" would be a test excluding them from the National Church. Here my meaning is a little misunderstood. I did not intend to make the acceptance of "Christ's words alone" a test to be applied to any individual. I was speaking, in the passage referred to, of the foundation principle of a church, and pointing out that no authority in existence has the right to impose any other condition of Church communion but what can be expressed in the words of Christ alone. Thus, for example, the creeds and articles of the National Church, imposed by Act of Parliament, or the doctrinal schedule of a chapel deed, imposed by the mere will of some little knot of chapel builders, ought not to be set up above the words of Scripture, or the words of Christ, and made legally binding on future generations, whether or not they can accept them as true. I cannot doubt that both the eminent men just named would assent to this position, however little they may care to be included within a Christian Church; and I am by no means sure that their inability to find in Christ's teaching "a sufficient basis of morality" would necessarily exclude them from it. Nor can I doubt their admitting that a sufficient basis of union in a common church for Christian men might be found in Christ's words, although your reviewer, as it appears, and strangely enough, is not prepared to admit this.

He observes, again, that "we have no more right to repress the utterance of narrow religious convictions than to demand the profession of a dogmatic creed." I fully assent to this; and I have constantly said that the future Church of the nation must allow perfect liberty of expression to all its members and teachers, Narrow or Broad, High or Low, alike. Your reviewer goes on to speak of one person to whom the worship of Christ is a religious necessity, and of another to whom it would be an act of idolatry, and he asks "what common religious exercises can unite two such men"? Could they not, I reply, being Christians, both of them worship together the "God and Father of Jesus Christ"? But, indeed, I have never contemplated the probability of two so differently minded persons uniting together in acts of worship. A national organisation of religion as comprehensive as the teachings of Christ, would be large enough to take both in without requiring any sacrifice of principle from either; and, as I have elsewhere pointed out, men of different ways of thinking on theological subjects would naturally and freely group themselves round different centres of instruction and influence, as they found spiritual good suited to their various needs. The error, I must add, of your reviewer's position here is in supposing that a national church must necessarily have one uniform theology, equally held, or at least professed, by all its members. But this is, and would be, impossible—as we may see by the example of the Established Church as it exists among us at the present moment; as we may see, again, by the example, I may add, of the Independent denomination itself. For can any one truly allege that even in this latter all the ministers and members hold, even in essential points, one and the same theology—some of them believing, as is well-known, in eternal torments, while others do not, to say nothing of other even more essential doctrines, recently discussed in the *English Independent*, by Dr. E. Mellor and Mr. Baldwin Brown? But still, even with many differences of the more speculative kind, there may, as I must insist, be a common loyalty to Christ, a common sympathy with His spirit, a common desire to live and to worship in accordance with His word. And in this common element, I must hold, as before, you may, if you will, find ample basis for the establishment of one united and comprehensive Christian Church.

Your reviewer, however, suggests that what he terms "sectarianism within a church" is far worse than "the

separation of Christian communities"; and sectarianism, he thinks "would be intensified by the gathering of all the forms of Christian thoughts in England within one society." My proposal is, be it remembered, that the nation, or "State," shall treat every form of Christian belief, in the persons of its holders, with the same impartial justice, giving the same advantages and privileges, as before the law, to all alike, and allowing each to participate in equal measure in all the revenues and honours which the nation has to administer or bestow, in connection with religion. And with this, I also propose that every individual member, and every party within the national Establishment shall have liberty of thought and of speech, all responsibility for the use which may be made of this high privilege necessarily remaining with the individual conscience. Is it not evident that the plan I suggest contemplates the regulation mainly of external organisation, and leaves private conviction, and the teaching of what is believed to be true doctrine, and even, to the largest practicable extent, the outward forms of worship, to the judgment, the knowledge, the care, of individuals and congregations? Yet such a comprehension as this, we are now told, is only "a scheme for the suppression of religious zeal," and for intensifying sectarianism? This peculiarity of view, I may be allowed to say, I cannot understand. The objection thus urged appears to me to amount to this, that if we give men equal advantages and liberties of every kind in connection with religious profession, we shall only add new bitterness to their existing sectarianism, shall only divide them from each other more than they have been divided before. Your reviewer may believe this paradox, if he can; I greatly doubt whether the bulk of your readers will do so.

He next notices my remark that "liberty to inquire, and to express the results of honest inquiry, cannot fail to be one of the most prominent characteristics of a church which desires to worship God in spirit and in truth"; and he finds a "sneer" against the Liberation Society in the words by which that remark is immediately followed. He ought to have quoted those words as they stand:—"This principle we would heartily commend to the consideration of many of the members of the Liberation Society." I cannot myself see any sneer in this, nor was any intended. I did, however, wish to suggest the inconsistency, as it appears to me, which is exemplified by men who stand up before the public as the especial champions of religious liberty, and who yet in their more private character as members of churches refuse to allow liberty of speech to their ministers. And this they do, I submit, by upholding a Congregational system which is based upon doctrinal schedules. On this subject your reviewer only ventures to say, "that there are many Congregational churches" in which doctrinal schedules are unknown. I am glad to hear that there are any, although I cannot suppress the question how many of these unscheduled churches are old Presbyterian foundations! I have hitherto been led to think (and not without considerable inquiry) that the ordinary and recent practice of the denomination is to limit the minister's freedom, by expressly providing that no man shall be the stated minister of a church "who shall cease to hold, teach, and preach the doctrines contained in the annexed schedule." (See the two model deeds of the Congregational Chapel Building Society.)

I will not attempt to enlarge on this unpleasant subject. Your own columns have recently borne sufficient testimony to the truth of what I say, in the letter of the Rev. E. White. This gentleman, himself a Congregational minister, has just drawn attention to the fact that "more than a few able and worthy ministers of the Baptist and Independent persuasions" are "deprived of opportunities of exercising a settled ministry" in consequence of chapel deeds and chapel officers virtually making "a test of the dogma of eternal misery." In reference, then, to this well-known and long-established usage of the Congregational churches, I confess I did intend to express my sense of the gross inconsistency thus attaching to the conduct of many members of the Liberation Society; and I can only hope, in conclusion, that some of them will profit by what I have said.

I have occupied too much of your space, Mr. Editor, and I must hasten to close my letter. But allow me in doing so, in the fewest possible words, to express my conviction that the religious equality which, I doubt not, we all desire, is not now attainable in this country by means of anything that can be called "diseestablishment," but only by the retention of the existing national Church revenues for religious uses, and the admission of all sections of the nation, being Christian, to the equal enjoyment of them, whatever the form of outward organisation which may be found to be necessary to secure this, with a due regard to the religious liberties of all. If you simply "diseestablish," on anything like the plan adopted for Ireland, you will only set up a great sect of overwhelming influence, largely endowed out of national property, and released from the control of national laws in the use of it. To this body the ancient prestige of establishment will unquestionably cling, while we Nonconformists shall virtually remain what we are, "Dissenters" still, and for generations to come. I do not like the prospect; for in such a state of things, I conceive, there would be neither justice nor religious equality for us. Yet even this is

clearly what the policy of the Liberation Society is leading up to.

I remain, &c.,

G. VANCE SMITH.

York, August 21, 1871.

P.S.—May I mention that, in one or two instances, the extracts given from my book in your last number contain misquotations which affect the sense? For example, "self-regarding" should have been "self-degrading," and "all might feel this far more truly" should have been "all might feel, and this far more truly."

THE BALLOT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Having been for upwards of twenty years, both in India and this country, a regular recipient of the *Nonconformist*, I take the liberty of addressing you upon what seems to me a serious crisis in the political history of England. I refer to the recent rejection in "another place" of the Ballot Bill.

The subject has been before the public for the last forty years, and discussed publicly and privately to the very last shred. The country, through persistent and overwhelming majorities of its representatives, has signified its desire to have the measure. The House of Lords, and, to borrow a most apposite designation by the editor of a Western journal, the House of Tories, have replied, "You do not want it, you shall not have it,—we defy you." I submit it is of no use wasting any more words over the question; we must be up and be doing, and all, in our respective places, make and help on such a demonstration as shall convince the two Houses that the country is in earnest, will have the ballot, and will not be ruled by the enemies of liberty and progress.

You, Sir, must be well aware that the ballot is the first indispensable step to all further advancement. Until we get the ballot, and let me add, equal electoral districts (vide *Daily News*, Aug. 14) we have not a chance of obtaining, among the great social and political questions that are looming in the future—disestablishment. I need not point out to you, Sir, that you might just as well expect the present, or any future House of Commons elected on the present basis and system, to separate Church and State as to expect to see, what we learnt in our nursery days was a fact, the cow jump over the moon. I respectfully suggest, therefore, that you lend all your energies during the forthcoming recess to create and aid by all means in your power an agitation to be expressed in continuous meetings, &c., all over the country in favour of the ballot to be reintroduced and passed immediately after the opening of next session.

I believe the warmest thanks and gratitude of the Liberal party in the United Kingdom are due to Messrs. Gladstone and Forster for their devoted and unshaken loyalty to this great question. In the face of factious opposition by open enemies, and, I was going to say, treachery on the part of professed friends unparalleled in the history of politics, these men have stuck to the point, and through evil report and good report, and, knowing that they had the approval of the Liberals of the kingdom, have carried it. Gladstone and Forster have now a right to look to the country for support; it is our duty, and ought to be our privilege, to strengthen their hands and encourage their hearts. Let the Liberals now sink their private differences, whereby they play into the hands of the Tories, while at the same time incurring their contempt, and unite as one man, have but one object (for the present) in view, viz.—the (Ballot) Bill, the whole bill, and nothing (else till we get that) but the bill. If the country, between the present time and the opening of the next session, sits down contentedly under the challenge and defiance that have been contemptuously thrown down to it by the irresponsible House and its lackeys, and makes no sign, the present Government will be perfectly justified, on the plea of want of encouragement to go on with it, in dropping the ballot, and the two Houses, snapping their fingers in the country's face, in saying, "There, I told you so."

I remain, yours faithfully,

B. C. S.

Aug. 15, 1871.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS' FAMILIES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Having felt considerable interest in the laudable project to found a college for our ministers' daughters where the education would be good, and the terms low, and where they might be fitted for fair competition with the daughters of those who are better circumstanced, so far as pecuniary position is concerned, I have been glad to have my attention drawn to a letter which appeared in your columns, from Mrs. Ellis, the gifted wife of the veteran missionary. As a layman, I have read with great pleasure her noble appeal on behalf of the scheme to the ladies of our churches. If they will only throw their energies into this very important undertaking, there can be no doubts as to the success of the committee who are so earnestly labouring in the matter; for what is it that the ladies cannot persuade gentlemen to do, if they will but try?

I have, however, one special object in sending this communication. I have had sent to me, I presume,

amongst a number of others, who have given in their names as subscribers (or who like myself have expressed an intention so to become) a sketch of the proposed building and its arrangements, about the excellence of which there cannot be two opinions. A near relative of mine being resident close to the intended site, I knew it well before it was thought of for this purpose, and I do not hesitate to say that a more healthy or more eligible place could not easily have been fixed upon, and a site on as reasonable terms it would have been difficult to have met with elsewhere.

But I have heard with regret, that the committee, actuated no doubt by what in some cases may be looked upon as a laudable prudence, have estimated the liberality of our people at so low a rate, as to intend to erect part of the building only, and they are at present proposing to commence with only eighty pupils, although their completed plan will accommodate 150. I observe that the central and more public parts of the building are in any case to be erected for 150; the committee having so far very wisely anticipated that the carrying out of the scheme to its full extent, could not be long deferred. I understand that the extra outlay, needed to complete the whole scheme, will only be one fourth to one-third more, than that required for the smaller one, or say between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.* additional. Surely so small an extra sum as this, spread over the whole of our churches, will not be very difficult to raise.

When we look at the fact that before the turf has been cut, there are more applications on behalf of pupils than the restricted plan will accommodate, and that these requests for admission are likely to grow in numbers when the scheme has been fairly launched—when we further remember, that priority of application is likely to be a prime consideration in receiving admission, we must, I think, conclude that the urgent necessity for such an establishment as will meet the necessities of the denomination has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt. Its benefits will be open to the families of our ministers throughout the kingdom, and since it may truly be called a national institution, I cannot but believe that support will flow in from every quarter, and on a scale sufficiently liberal to enable the committee to build and open the completed plans free from debt.

My own sympathies have been enlisted on behalf of this most interesting movement from an intimate knowledge of two of the families whence applications have already been sent, and where the opportunities the college would afford, would be invaluable. I have waited to see whether the committee receives the support which the project so richly merits, before I fix the amount of my subscription to the building fund. So strongly, however, do I feel the necessity of carrying out the plan to its full extent, that I believe I shall be willing to enlarge my original intention to five times the amount for the whole, rather than we should stop short with the restricted plans.

The foundationstones, I understand, to be laid early in the autumn. If before that time I could enlist the zeal and co-operation of a few of the ladies to whom Mrs. Ellis has already appealed, I should esteem it a rich reward for the few minutes bestowed on this letter. It is for those, whose own voice cannot be heard, that I plead. It is for those who are their sisters, and who are debarred from the educational advantages they themselves have received. If the ladies will plead, and send the result of their labour of love to the committee before the end of next month, they would be in a better condition to judge of the value of my suggestion, viz., at once to proceed with the erection of the whole of the building requisite to receive the full complement of 150 pupils.

Any way I have ventured, by your kind permission, to place the matter in every point of view before your readers.

I am, yours faithfully,

THOMAS SIMPSON.

Uplands, Farncombe, near Godalming, Aug. 16, 1871.

REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—(By telegraph.) At a meeting of the management committee of the Birmingham Liberal Association, held on Monday night, it was resolved "that the executive committee be requested to consider the propriety of holding a conference of representatives from the great towns, with the view of obtaining a reform of the House of Lords." The executive committee will meet on Thursday evening to consider the foregoing resolution.

THE TONIC SOL-Fa MOVEMENT.—The annual concert of the Tonic Sol-fa Association, at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, brought a great number of visitors. On the present occasion the chorus was comparatively small, but the object of the committee was not so much to make a demonstration by numbers, as to promote thorough and systematic teaching, by accepting only those pupils who had passed a satisfactory examination. With a view to test the pupils in regard to this "at-sight" capacity, a new part-song, composed by Mr. Henry Leslie at the request of the committee, was placed in the hands of the pupils, the music of which they never had an opportunity of seeing beforehand. This the pupils took in hand between the first and second parts, and read off with perfect ease. Mr. Sari and Mr. J. Proudfoot conducted, and Mr. Coward presided at the organ. After the chorus the Rev. Mr. Curwen distributed the prizes to the successful pupils.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Wednesday evening, the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Lodger's Goods Protection, House of Commons (Witnesses), and other bills. Various bills were forwarded a stage, and their lordships adjourned at five minutes past six o'clock.

On Thursday, the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Army Regulation Bill, the Sunday Observance Prosecutions Bill, and the Intoxicating Liquors Licenses Suspension Bill. Various Bills were forwarded a stage. The Military Manœuvres Bill was read a second time, after a statement of its provisions by Lord NORTHBROOK.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Lord SHAFTESBURY, after advertising to the great Parliamentary influence of the Metropolitan water companies and the inquiry by Royal Commission, declared that the present supply was inadequate, and that there was scarcely a pint of good pipe-water to be had in London, while the water in the wells was still more deleterious. There was hardly a great town in the kingdom that was not better supplied with water than London, and he trusted that the Government would deal with the question next year. Lord HALIFAX said that the Metropolitan Water Bill, although not all that could be wished, would ensure a constant supply, and that further legislation would be desirable next session to insure a more abundant supply of pure water for the metropolis.

THE TRUCK SYSTEM.

Lord SHAFTESBURY, having been chairman of the Committee of House of Commons on the subject, next called attention to the truck system, which, he said, was in every respect an abomination. The Government could not bring in a more popular bill than one making it imperative that wages should be paid in the coin of the realm. Lord HALIFAX replied that a bill making the existing law more stringent had been brought into the other House, but had been abandoned in consequence of the time taken up by other measures. It would be re-introduced early next session.

Their Lordships adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

On Friday, on the report of the Vaccination Act (1867) Amendment Bill, Lord REDDESDALE moved to omit Clause 10, limiting the amount of the penalties to be inflicted on contumacious parents. Lord HALIFAX stated the reasons which had induced the select committee to recommend a relaxation of the provisions of the Act in the case of persons entertaining conscientious objections to vaccination. On a division the clause was struck out, the contents being seven and the not-contents eight.

The bills before their lordships were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.

REVIEW OF THE SESSION.

The House of Lords sat for about an hour on Saturday forenoon, the greater part of the time being taken up by an attack on the House of Commons by Lord Redesdale and replies by Lord Halifax and the Lord Chancellor. Lord REDDESDALE pointed out that of the thirty-five public bills sent down to the other House, five important measures had failed to pass the Commons; while of the sixty-seven bills sent up from the other House their lordships had only refused their assent to two—the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, and the Ballot Bill. The latter should have been entitled, "A bill to enable people to lie without being found out." The present House of Commons had shown more regard than almost any House he remembered to the Minister of the day, with little regard in some cases, as to the Budget for instance, to the interests of their constituents. In reply, Lord HALIFAX urged that it was hardly courteous for their lordships to refuse to devote a week or ten days to a bill which had occupied the other House for six weeks or two months, and which had been approved by a great majority. The Lord CHANCELLOR added that the ballot was wanted for the sake of their lordships and of landowners, in order that they might be under no temptation to impose a horrible tyranny on persons whose right to the free exercise of the franchise was as good as that of any person to his estates.

THE PROROGATION.

Their lordships met at half-past one o'clock on Monday.

Besides the Lords Commissioners, the only peers present were the Bishop of London, Lord Northbrook, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Crews, and Lord Hawarden. There were about half-a-dozen ladies occupying seats in the body of the House, and one or two in the Peers' Gallery. The Strangers' Gallery was well filled.

At a few minutes to two o'clock the Speaker of the House of Commons, accompanied by Mr. Gladstone and other members, attended at the bar, to hear the Royal Assent given to a number of bills, and the Royal Message proroguing the Parliament.

The Lord CHANCELLOR then read the Queen's Speech, which was as follows:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The time has now arrived when I am enabled to release you from your attendance in Parliament, and to commend your unwearied labours for the public good. I acknowledge with satisfaction the loyal readiness

with which you have made provision for my beloved children, Princess Louise and Prince Arthur.

The great events and important changes, which have recently occurred on the Continent of Europe, have not compromised the friendly relations subsisting between the Crown of the United Kingdom and Foreign Powers. Whatever part I may take in those international questions which from time to time may arise, will continue to be taken with no other view than the maintenance of general concord and public right.

The conference which was sitting in London at the commencement of the session was joined during its deliberations by a French Plenipotentiary, and it considered and agreed upon a revision of those stipulations of the Treaty of 1856, which concerned the Black Sea and the Bosphorus. I trust that the unanimous decision of the Powers, which has been recorded in a new treaty, may assist in securing the tranquility and welfare of the East.

It is with a special satisfaction that I refer on the present occasion to our relations with the United States of America. By the Treaty of Washington, modes of settlement have been fixed for several questions, which had long remained in dispute.

My communications with the American Government have not been without the promise of advantage to other countries. The President has concurred with me in an application of that principle of amicable reference which was proclaimed by the Treaty of Paris, and which I rejoice to have had an opportunity of recommending by example. And we have also agreed in the adoption of certain rules for guiding the maritime conduct of neutrals which may I trust ere long obtain general recognition and form a valuable addition to the code of International law.

I place full reliance upon the disposition of the American Government to carry forward with cordiality and zeal the subsidiary arrangements which have been determined on for the execution of the treaty.

I shall apprise the Parliament of Canada that the provisions which require its consent are, in my view, highly conducive to the interests of the dominion. On these provisions, however, that Parliament will pass an independent and final judgment.

The Government of France has signified its desire to alter some of the provisions of the Commercial Treaty of 1860, which is now terminable, upon a notice of twelve months, by either of the contracting States. I am anxious to meet the wishes of a friendly power, and to give scope for any measures calculated to meet its fiscal exigencies; but I should witness with concern any change of a nature to restrict that commercial intercourse between the two countries which has done so much for their closer union.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—

I thank you for the liberal supplies which, under the circumstances of the year, I directed my Government to ask from you; and for the sum of money you have voted in order to meet the charge of the compensations required by the abolition of purchase in the army.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN—

I observe with concern that you have not been able to bring to a definitive issue the treatment of some of the subjects which were recommended to you in the speech from the Throne at the opening of the session.

But several important laws have been added to the statute book.

By the Army Regulation Bill you have made a liberal provision for the officers of the army, who will no longer be permitted on retirement to sell their commissions to their successors, and by transferring to the executive Government powers in respect to the auxiliary forces, which have hitherto been vested in the Lords Lieutenants of counties you have laid the foundation for measures calculated to effect a closer union among the various land forces of the kingdom.

The Act by which, after a full examination of the facts, you conferred extraordinary powers on the Viceroy of Ireland for the repression of agrarian outrage in Westmeath, has thus far answered its purpose. Elsewhere in that portion of the United Kingdom there is a gratifying immunity from crime, and agriculture and trade are prosperous.

By the measures relating to University Tests, to the repeal of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, and to the laws which affect trades unions, you have brought to a conclusion long continued and serious controversies.

The Local Government Board Act will, I trust, prepare the way for important sanitary and administrative improvements; and the Act relating to the Judicial Committee will supply a much needed element of strength to an important tribunal, and afford a prospect of clearing away a serious arrear of appeals now before the Privy Council.

But there is every likelihood that for a long time to come, the great and varied interests of the United Kingdom and of the Empire at large, together with the extending demands of modern society, may prevent any lightening of the honourable but arduous burdens of legislation.

The condition of the Revenue, the revived activity of Trade, and the prospects of the Harvest, are subjects for congratulation; and I trust that these and all other bounties of Providence will ever meet their fitting acknowledgment in the hearts of a grateful people.

The commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, Lord Halifax, Earl Cowper, the Duke of St. Albans, and the Earl of Cork.

The Lord Chancellor having read the Speech, bowed to the Commons, who retired, and the House then rose.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday the Appropriation Bill was read a second time, and the Pauper Inmates' Discharge and Regulation Bill passed through committee after a good deal of discussion.

On the third reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, Mr. M'LAREN, encouraged by the narrow majority of the previous evening, made a final endeavour to obtain exemption for carts and horses employed on church-going service on Sundays, but on this occasion he was beaten by forty-five to twenty-nine.

GLEBE LOAN (IRELAND) ACT (1870) AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order for going into committee on this bill, Mr. LEA opposed the measure, and complained that contradictory explanations of its objects had been given by the Government.

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE said the measure inaugurated no new course of legislation, and introduced nothing novel in principle, but only provided a more convenient mode of carrying out the Act of last year.

Mr. NEWDEGATE, while admitting that there was no advance in principle made by the present bill, held that it extended the operation of the law—a matter quite as important as the principle on which the law was founded.

Mr. M'LAREN objected to the principle of laying taxes on the people and lending the produce of them to any religious body whatever. One step in that direction led to another, and he deprecated that kind of legislation altogether.

Mr. DOWNING complained of the course taken by hon. members for Scotland, who had remained in town for the express purpose of opposing all measures for the advantage of Ireland, although Scotland got more from the Imperial exchequer in seven years than Ireland did in twenty. This bill merely proposed to extend to Ireland the principle of a Scotch Act that had been in force for the last forty years.

Mr. ANDERSON objected to the bill as proposing to apply the money of the taxpayers to ecclesiastical purposes.

Mr. WATKIN WILLIAMS should vote for the bill, as being merely an extension of the Act of last year.

The motion for going into committee having been agreed to, the House went into committee upon the bill.

Mr. LEA moved the rejection of Clause 4, on the ground that it proposed to scatter money broadcast among the different religious denominations in Ireland.

Mr. M'LAREN explained that the charge of remaining to oppose the bill could not apply to himself, because during the six years he had had a seat in that House he had always entered and left it with the Speaker, and had only been absent for two days in that period. (Hear.)

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL adverted to the fact that out of 103 Irish members, including many distinguished patriots, only three were present on that occasion to support an Irish bill of some importance. ("Hear," and a laugh.)

The amendment having been negatived without a division, the bill passed through committee, and was afterwards read a third time.

PREVENTION OF CRIME BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on this bill,

Mr. HENLEY expressed regret that a measure of such importance, and containing, as he believed, some very objectionable provisions, should have come before the House at so late a period of the session. The object of the existing system appeared to be to bring old thieves and the police in close acquaintance with one another, under the belief that the police gained some advantage by it, but he believed that more crime would be detected if the police knew nothing of the old thieves. The system was carried out in the present bill, and one of the principal objections he entertained to it was that it shut the door in the face of those who, having once committed a criminal offence, desired to return to the path of honesty. One of the clauses introduced the novel and objectionable principle, that a person might be charged with an offence not included in the indictment, and there were also other serious alterations in the existing practice of criminal law.

Mr. STRAIGHT remarked that the bill was practically a reproduction of the Habitual Criminals Bill of last year, and he was satisfied that it was a much better measure than that was.

Mr. LOCKE considered that it should be in the discretion of the magistrate to determine whether a publican should lose his licence for the offence of harbouring thieves, and that in those cases there should be an appeal similar to that provided by the 9th George IV.

The House then went into committee on the bill, and passed the clauses with amendments.

The Occasional Sermons Bill was withdrawn.

On the motion of Mr. WALFOLE, the Burial Grounds Bill was read a second time and then withdrawn, the hon. member stating his intention to proceed with it next session.

The Judicial Committee of Privy Council Bill was read a third time and passed, and the Statute Law Revision Bill was passed through committee. Several other bills were passed through their final stages, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.

RELIGIOUS EQUALITY AND CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

On Thursday, Mr. CHARLEY asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he adopted the statement made, with apparent authority and without any limit as to locality, by Earl Granville, in his despatch of the 11th of June, 1870, to Governor Rawson (paper 269, session 1871, p. 42), that "the principle of religious equality is inconsistent with and opposed to the principle of establishment"; and, if so, which of these two inconsistent principles he intended to carry out.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have not had an opportunity

of communicating with my noble friend on the subject of this question. Notice of the question was, I think, only given yesterday, and my noble friend is at this moment on his way to Balmoral. I think, however, I can give a sufficient answer without any reference to my noble friend. The phrase "religious equality" admits of different interpretations. You may say that religious equality prevails conditionally or unconditionally. In a country where there is an Established Church it cannot be said that absolute and abstract religious equality prevails. (Cheers from below the gangway.) Notwithstanding that, it can and may be said that a substantial and practical religious equality, at any rate, to a very great extent prevails. Now, I see plainly that when my noble friend wrote this despatch he spoke of the principle of religious equality as applicable to the colonies, where really the principle of an establishment has never had anything but a very partial and shadowy existence. Moreover, he had before him the great example set by the party to which the hon. and learned member belongs in the case of the island of Jamaica. In that case the principle of religious equality had been laid down in the most stringent manner in which it is capable of application. That became, I may say, the model case to which the policy of other colonies, and especially of the West Indian colonies, was to conform, and, therefore, adverting to the mode in which it was understood that the principle of religious equality had been applied to Jamaica, my noble friend said that "the principle of religious equality is inconsistent with and opposed to the principle of establishment." That has nothing whatever to do with the principle of religious equality as it subsists and is understood at home. (Hear.) If, therefore, the hon. and learned member wishes to know whether we adhere to the terms used by the Foreign Minister for colonial purposes, I say we do adhere to them. If he wishes to know what principle I, for one, and, I believe, I may speak for my colleagues, intend to act upon with regard to this country, I say that those principles may be gathered from the speeches which we have had an opportunity of delivering in the present session on the motion of my hon. friend the member for Bradford. (Hear, hear.)

THE PHENIX PARK RIOT.

After the Appropriation Bill had been passed through committee, and several other bills had been forwarded through a formal stage,

The discussion of the Dublin affray was revived by Sir J. GRAY, who moved a resolution calling for an inquiry into all the circumstances attending the dispersal of the meeting in Phoenix Park. He was seconded by Colonel WHITE, who admitted that the meeting was in bad taste, though its object was perfectly legitimate; but that was no justification for the violent interference of the police.

Mr. SMYTH, as chairman of the meeting, gave a long account of the motives of its being held, and of all the circumstances of the collision between the police and the people, or, as he called it, "the police battue." He complained that the police had received orders to arrest no one, but to strike right and left, that no sufficient warning had been given, and also of the unequal administration of the law in the two countries.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in opposing the motion, reminded the House that the law as to the right of public meetings in the parks was still in an unsettled state in both countries, and that the Government had never yet renounced its right to prevent meetings there. Analysing the language of the motion, he urged the impossibility of referring to a Royal commission the conduct of the Government, which was responsible to Parliament, and that as to the police, the inquiry proposed would be premature inasmuch as it would interfere with the proceedings which might be taken before the ordinary tribunals, and also with any investigation which might be made by the Executive. He denied emphatically that there was any difference in the law of the two countries or in its administration. In judging of the legality of these meetings, the intent must be taken into consideration, and in this case he insisted that the time and place, and all the information the Government had as to its object, were such as to lead to an apprehension that it might be illegitimate, and that it was not held for fair discussion, but merely as a demonstration.

Mr. MAGUIRE condemned the bad taste of holding the meeting, and was equally severe on the wretched blunder of the Government in suppressing it by the bludgeon. Either it ought to have been suffered to pass without notice, or there should have been a display of force which would have deterred its promoters from holding it. Mr. Maguire also warmly protested against the unequal administration of the law.

Colonel GILPIN supported an inquiry in the hope that it would lead to the law being as efficiently carried out in this country as in Ireland.

Sir D. CORRIGAN thought both parties in the wrong, and on the whole was for letting bygones be bygones, on the understanding that the law should be the same in both countries. The damage done had been greatly exaggerated, and, as for an

inquiry, if a tribunal came down straight from heaven it would not give satisfaction.

Mr. Digby, Mr. Pim, Sir P. O'Brien, and Mr. W. Johnstone supported an inquiry; while Mr. Fowler, though not acquitting the Government of all blame, declined to share in any vote which would weaken the Irish Executive.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT sympathised with the protest of the Irish members, and held that the chief officials of the Irish executive had shown themselves disqualified for the task of government. He commented on the Tory tone of the Prime Minister's speech, and maintained that of all out-of-door places the public parks were the most convenient for public meetings.

Mr. M. CHAMBERS argued generally in favour of the maintenance of the right of public meeting; and Mr. EASTWICK, thinking the Government deserved censure, supported the motion, at the same time recommending that the whole question of public meetings should be reconsidered.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND treated the motion as a vote of censure which, if carried, would lead to the retirement of Lord Spencer and Lord Hartington, but declared that the Government would hold an inquiry of their own into the conduct of the police. For such an investigation the police themselves were most anxious. Discussing the legal aspect of the question, Mr. Dowse pointed out that for eighty years there had not been a political meeting in Phoenix Park—not even in O'Connell's time—and asserted that the public had no right to hold meetings in the park against the will of the Crown. For this he quoted the opinions of the English and Irish law officers. Defending next the conduct of the Irish executive, he maintained that the object of the meeting was to neutralise the effect of the hearty welcome which had been given to the princes, and that the Lord-Lieutenant was justified in stopping it. He related at length the history of the affair, contending that the police had acted within the law, and that they did not use violence until they had been assaulted and the meeting had become a riotous assembly.

Mr. DOWNING declined to accept the private inquiry offered by the Government, and repeated the arguments urged by him the other evening against the legality of the police interference.

Sir J. GRAY replied; and on a division his motion was negatived by 75 to 23.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock.

On Friday the Appropriation Bill and the Prevention of Crime Bill were read a third time and passed.

CONDUCT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Mr. SINCLAIR AYTOUN moved the second reading of a bill to suspend for a year the operation of the Reductions *ex Capite Leck* Abolition Bill, the only law in Scotland directed against deathbed bequests, so that it would be in the power of any man one day before his death to alienate the whole of his property in favour some religious or charitable corporation. It was a most extraordinary thing that measures of this importance should be hurried on at such late hours. This led Mr. MACLAREN to complain bitterly of the mode in which Scotch business was conducted. By no possibility could Scotch members learn when anything in which they were interested was coming on, and yet, if they were absent any night the Government not unnaturally interpreted their absence as acquiescence, and took advantage of that circumstance to proceed with Scotch business. Mr. BRUCE and Mr. GLADSTONE opposed the bill chiefly on the ground of the inconvenience of going back on subjects discussed and settled in the course of the session. The late hours and the barrenness of Scotch legislation were unfortunately due to the peculiar circumstances of the session.

Lord ELCHO protested against Mr. Gladstone's continual complaints about the machinery of Parliament. Such complaints were never made by Lord Palmerston or Mr. Disraeli. It should be remembered that machinery required a careful man to look after it, to see that it was well oiled, and that grit was kept out of the wheels. Mr. CARDWELL retorted that his lordship's advice was better than his example. Mr. HENLEY also blamed the mismanagement of business this year—especially the sacrifice of useful measures of legislation to political objects, which he thought was calculated to bring Parliament into contempt. The bill was in the end withdrawn.

Lord HARTINGTON, in reference to the debate on the Dublin riots, stated that a commission will be issued to inquire into the conduct of the police as soon as is possible without prejudice to any pending legal proceeding. The general question of meetings in the parks will be considered by the Government, and in the meantime no meeting will be interfered with which does not interfere with public convenience.

The House adjourned at a quarter past six.

The House of Commons sat for half-an-hour on Saturday, and agreed to the Lords' amendments to the Vaccination Bill, including the excision of Clause 10, which relieves recalcitrants from all further penalties after the payment of 20s. in fines. Mr. FORSTER said he consented to this very reluctantly, and only because the bill would otherwise have been lost.

Lord ENFIELD, in reply to Mr. Sheridan, said that as long as the Mexican Government refused to make the first step towards asking this country to

renew diplomatic relations with them, it would be hardly right for such a proposition to emanate from Great Britain.

The Speaker took the chair at ten minutes to two o'clock on Monday. The attendance of members was very thin. For some time, the representatives of the War Department, Mr. Cardwell, Sir H. Storks, and Captain Vivian, were the sole occupants of the Treasury Bench. They were afterwards joined by Mr. Gladstone, the Solicitor-General for Ireland, Viscount Enfield, and Mr. Glyn. The Opposition benches were almost empty, the leading Conservatives present being Mr. Henley, Mr. Spencer Walpole, and Mr. Newdegate. On the Radical benches below the gangway were Mr. J. Locke, Mr. Montagu Chambers, and a few Scotch members.

After the Speaker had taken the chair, Mr. M'Laren obtained some unopposed returns, and Mr. NEWDEGATE gave a notice of motion on the subject of emigration.

SIR R. PALMER ON THE ROYAL WARRANT.

Mr. CARDWELL said he had received a letter from the hon. member for Richmond (Sir R. Palmer) in connection with the reference made by Mr. Torrens last week to his absence during the debates on the Army Regulation Bill. Sir ROUNDELL PALMER stated that his absence was entirely due to matters of private convenience, and was in no way connected with the subject under the consideration of the House. He had never expressed any opinion on the subject of the exercise of the prerogative of the Crown, other than that expressed to Mr. Cardwell, and he was of opinion that the issue of the Royal Warrant was within the undoubted power of the Crown.

The House was then summoned to the House of Lords to hear the Queen's Speech, and on their return, the Speaker read the Royal Message. Mr. Gladstone then shook hands with the Speaker, and the other members having followed his example, the session thus came to an end.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen and Court are now at Balmoral, where they arrived on Monday afternoon. Owing to her indisposition, the Queen did not present herself to the crowds that had come from Brechin and Montrose to see and welcome her.

The *Court Circular* states that the Queen bore the journey to Balmoral well, but continues to be so much indisposed as to be confined to her apartments, and unable to join the family circle.

The visit of Her Majesty to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll at Inverary, which was to have taken place on Saturday next, has been indefinitely postponed.

The *Lancet* has seen with regret the attacks on the Queen, based on Her Majesty's absence from evening entertainments and on her brief residence in London, and it adds:—

Now the fact is—and the more widely this fact is known, and the more plainly it is stated, the better—Her Majesty is not physically capable of bearing the effects of crowded or overheated rooms, or of prolonged residence in London. The effort of entertaining in the evening produces great and immediate discomfort, followed by sleeplessness or disturbed rest and severe headache; and Her Majesty rarely visits Buckingham Palace without suffering in a similar manner.

On Saturday a Privy Council was held at Balmoral, the Duke of Edinburgh, Earl Granville, Mr. Stansfeld, and Sir E. Thornton being present.

The Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne have been staying at Naworth Castle, near Brampton. They arrived at Glasgow on Saturday by ordinary train from Carlisle, and proceeded onward to Helensburgh, which place was *en route*. Here they embarked on board the Duke of Argyll's yacht *Colomba*, and sailed over to Roseneath, where special arrangements had been made for their reception. They will remain at Roseneath Castle, visiting the various places of interest in the neighbourhood, till Wednesday morning, and will then proceed to Inverary. On Sunday the Princess and Marquis attended Divine service in the parish church. The Rev. Mr. Story occupied the pulpit, and there was a crowded congregation. Rain fell in torrents throughout the day.

The Prince of Wales (who is abroad) has been paying a visit to the battle-field of Sedan.

The Crown Prince and Princess of the German Empire and suite returned from Plymouth to Osborne on Saturday by railway *via* Exeter and Southampton, whither they had proceeded in the Victoria and Albert yacht on Thursday. They had a rough passage to Plymouth, and left for the continent yesterday.

Mr. Gladstone has gone to Whitby, which borough is represented by his eldest son.

The *Daily News*, "on the best authority," is able to make the gratifying announcement that Mr. Bright's health justifies the hope that he will be able to return to his Parliamentary duties next session, as completely restored to mental and physical vigour as was the case after the illness of similar character and duration which befel him fifteen years ago.

A commission will be appointed, consisting of three members, to deal with all individual questions arising out of the abolition of purchase in the army.

It is officially stated that 600,000*l.* will be required in the first year of the operation of the Army Bill for buying up officers' commissions.

The Chinese Ambassador, who is at present in Paris, is expected in London this week.

The honour of knighthood has been conferred on Mr. John Gilbert, President of the Society of Painters in Water-colours.

EAST SURREY ELECTION.

The nomination for East Surrey to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Charles Buxton took place on Monday at Croydon, the high sheriff of the county, Mr. Money Wigram, presiding. There was a large but good-tempered assembly.

Mr. J. P. Gassiot proposed Mr. Granville Leveson-Gower (Liberal), of Titsey Park, Surrey, and Mr. S. Morley, M.P., seconded the nomination. Mr. Morley said if the electors wished to see a continuance of that legislation which would tell upon the happiness and well-being of all classes of the country, he would not say it was their duty to support precisely the Ministry which was now in power (though he was a thorough believer in it), but he would say, support the principles with which the Ministry was identified. (Cheers and counter cheers.) He was no blind adherent of the Government, and had voted against them, but he believed they had in the Prime Minister a man whose honour, whose intentions, and whose conscientiousness—(laughter and cheers)—were undoubted. He might, and had made mistakes, but until he found a man who was perfect—and he should not look for a specimen among the Tory party—(cheers and uproar)—he should support the present Prime Minister. (Cheers.)

Sir Thomas Tilson proposed Mr. James Watney, jun. (Conservative), and Mr. Lewis Lloyd seconded the proposition. He remarked that at any rate Mr. Watney had a clean political bill of health. (Uproar.)

Mr. Leveson-Gower (who was received with cheers and cries of "Go back to Reigate") addressed the assembly. He paid a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Buxton, and then proceeded to read a letter from Mr. Vickers, who was a candidate, withdrawing from the contest in order that the Liberal party might not be divided. The election was (he proceeded to say) not to be fought out on the personal merits of either of the candidates, but on far broader grounds—on the grounds which Mr. Morley had so ably spoken of. It was a contest between the parties of progress and the party of obstruction. (Cheers and uproar.) It was a contest between the party which had definite views, definite objects, and definite means of obtaining those objects, as against those whose only object seemed to be to impede as far as possible useful legislation. (Uproar.) The eyes of all large Liberal constituencies were upon East Surrey at this period, and he asked the electors would they be favourable to those principles which they had advocated consistently since 1847, or would they haul down their flag at the bidding of the Tories? (Cheers and "No.") The hon. candidate promised to support the present Government so far as he considered them instrumental in aiding liberal and useful measures. (Cheers.) As a young man (Mr. Leveson-Gower said) he had a Parliamentary ambition and sat for Reigate. He, however, was not responsible for the acts of his agents, and he had had to suffer for those acts as other gentlemen had done. He was thankful to say he could point to the votes he had already given in the House as an indication of what would be his course if elected, and he felt sure in the result the electors of East Surrey would not allow the vote of one of their representatives to be nullified by the vote of the other. (Cheers and counter cheers.)

Mr. Watney then addressed the electors.

The show of hands was declared in favour of Mr. Watney. A poll was demanded for Mr. Leveson-Gower, and fixed to take place on Thursday (tomorrow).

Mr. James Watney, in his address, avows himself, "in the truest sense of the word, a Conservative." He believes that the changes necessitated by our growing wealth and population should be carried out in a spirit of faithful adherence to the principles of the Constitution, and thinks that Her Majesty's Government, by taking an opposite course, have weakened our influence abroad and have shaken public confidence at home. He is also of opinion that inefficient arrangements have brought our military and naval services to an unsatisfactory condition in spite of a large expenditure, and that the unprecedented delay in considering the estimates has prevented the House of Commons from exercising its usual scrutiny, which is the only guarantee for economy in the public service.

At an influential meeting held at Croydon on Friday, Mr. Leveson-Gower explained his views at some length. He said he hoped the electors, by returning him, would convince the Tories that the supposed reaction in public opinion against Mr. Gladstone was altogether a delusion. (Cheers.) In reply to observations from Messrs. Ma'leson, Rule, Gilfillan, and others, Mr. Leveson-Gower said that he would vote for the immediate repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, but was not prepared to vote for Mr. Miall's motion for the disestablishment of the Church of England, believing that the time was not yet ripe for the full consideration and settlement of that question. A resolution in favour of the candidate was carried.

To keep your own counsel—get into a Chancery suit, and you'll never get rid of him.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The commission upon the motion for prolonging the powers of M. Thiers continues to deliberate with closed doors. It is, however, generally said that the question has taken a conciliatory turn, and that the reporter of the commission will probably be M. Vitet. It is said that there is a majority of three votes on the commission. It is not expected that the question will be discussed for some days.

Notice of the following motion on the part of M. Chambrun, formerly prefect under the Empire, and now an independent member of the National Assembly, has been distributed:—

M. Thiers, invested with the title, "President of the Republic," will exercise the functions delegated to him by the Act of the 17th February last. Powers and title are conferred on him on the same conditions as under the Bordeaux pact. The dignity to which he is raised constitutes the only change introduced into the text and the spirit of the pact of Bordeaux, which is renewed, confirmed, and guaranteed without any limitation as regards time. The National Assembly will not separate without having firmly secured the future greatness and prosperity of the country by voting and promulgating a constitution. The President of the Republic will submit all laws to the Assembly through his Ministers. He will preside at the Cabinet Council of the Ministers, which is jointly responsible to the Assembly.

The other points of the motion are similar to those proposed by M. Rivet. A certain importance is attributed to M. Chambrun's proposal as offering a field for coming to terms between the Left and Right.

The Deputies of the Left are preparing a Parliamentary manifesto advocating the restoration of the state of things that existed in 1848. They found this demand on the ground of the illegality of the *coup d'état* of 1852, which abolished the constitution of 1848.

The Committee of the Budget has fixed M. Thiers' salary at 500,000 francs, and has awarded him besides a supplementary credit for the expenses incidental to his position. M. Thiers is to be the only public functionary lodged at the expense of the State.

The Bonapartist deputy, M. Abbateucci, has resigned his seat in the Assembly. According to general belief, his object was merely to create a vacancy in Corsica for M. Rouher, who would not be elected anywhere in France.

In the French Assembly on Saturday the report of the committee upon the Army Bill was brought up. The bill proposes the introduction of compulsory military service for all men between twenty and forty years of age, the suppression of the system of substitutes, and the dissolution of the National Guard.

The rumours of the Duc de Broglie resigning his post in London are not confirmed. They arose from the fact of his opposing M. Rivet's motion in committee.

The Chamber, before separating, will vote on the questions of the prolongation of the powers, of the removal of the Assembly and the Government to Paris, of the dissolution of the National Guard, and, lastly, on the Budget, reserving the contested question of taxation. The vacation of the Assembly will not begin before the 15th of September.

It is reported that the evacuation of France by the German troops has been suspended by Prince Bismarck under pretext that if M. Thiers is forced to resign Germany may have difficulties with the new Government.

This and other disquieting rumours relative to the negotiations for the evacuation of the French Departments are denied in official circles; as is also the statement of the *Liberté* that General Manteuffel has been superseded by Prince Eylau.

There are again serious reports of acts of violence by the German army of occupation, and the Paris *Presse* of Thursday evening says that letters from the Eastern Departments attribute to the German occupants a character of systematic aggression. "Deplorable conflicts," says the *Presse*, "occur daily." A Paris telegram says that Lieut. Forchet, a member of the fourth court-martial, who had gone to Charenton to visit a sick brother, had been attacked by a Bavarian soldier and grievously wounded. The newspapers of Lons-le-Saulnier also report an attack by Prussian soldiers on two travellers, one of whom was seriously wounded. Numerous occurrences of the same character are reported from the departments occupied by the Germans.

A sword of honour, offered to General Uhrich by the Alsatians resident in New York, was presented the day before yesterday to the General, who, in thanking the deputation, spoke as follows:—"This sword creates a fresh bond of attachment between Alsace and myself. It will only be drawn from its scabbard on the day when we shall attempt to reconquer our sister provinces, and efface by a great victory the memory of our recent humiliations."

According to the *Salut*, it has been officially resolved to rebuild the Vendôme Column, but it has not yet been determined whether the statue of Napoleon I. shall be restored or a statue of Liberty be placed in its stead.

The *Débats* states that the latest information from Algeria affords no ground for expecting a speedy termination of the troubles in that colony.

The Budget Committee and the Government have agreed to substitute a paper-tax of twenty francs per kilogramme for the proposed stamp duty on newspapers.

The *Siècle* supports the petition published by the Radical journals of Lyons and Bordeaux, demanding the dissolution of the National Assembly. The *Siècle*, however, considers the proposal for the immediate dissolution of the National Guard as impolitic, inopportune, and tending to encourage the belief in a monarchical conspiracy. The *Débats*, on the other hand, highly approves the proposal.

It is said that M. Drouyn de Lhuys will shortly be appointed French ambassador in Vienna.

The French Government is adopting precautions against the cholera, but it is stated that up to the present time no serious cause for uneasiness has arisen.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, the loan of 350,000,000f. voted by the Municipal Council of Paris will only suffice to meet urgent requirements. Further loans to a considerable amount will be needed to restore the financial equilibrium of the city.

The trial of the Communist leaders by court-martial at Versailles is nearly finished. Amongst those examined during the past week have been Paschal Grousset, Regère, Ferré, Rastoul, Parent, and Lullier. Evidence was given to the effect that Lullier had held out promises of rank and honour to the officers and men of that regiment if they would join the insurrection. Several witnesses, all in custody, were called to prove that about May 15th they left Paris with passports signed by Paschal Grousset for the department of Nièvre, there to await orders from a certain Colonel Ramez touching a provincial rising. Paschal Grousset denied all knowledge of this, and said he signed passports in blank, which were filled up without his knowledge. Rastoul solemnly protested against the assassinations and incendiary fires in Paris, and disclaimed all responsibility. He sought to prove that his conduct was a continual protest against the violent and unjust acts of the Commune. Among the evidence given yesterday was a statement made by one of the witnesses, a fireman belonging to the barracks in the Rue du Vieux Colombier, to the effect that a command reached the barracks from the Commune ordering that all places should be set on fire where it might be thought desirable. The witness added that during the fires the firemen were forbidden to leave the barracks on pain of death. Another fireman deposed to having seen at the Ministry of Finance empty bottles which smelt of petroleum. A Federal Chief of Battalion stated that he had received an order to blow up two houses in the Place Vendôme. Having refused compliance with this order, he was arrested by the Committee of Public Safety. Another witness said he knew that orders had been given to burn the Palais Royal.

In consequence of the excitement of public feeling at the impunity of M. Ranc, and the approach of the day when the Government had decided to proceed against him, M. Ranc has suddenly quitted Paris. He has, it is reported, been enabled to leave France by means of a passport with which M. Jules Simon has furnished him.

AMERICA.

The Hon. Charles Francis Adams, formerly American Minister to London, who had declined the appointment of arbitrator to represent the United States in the Geneva Commission for the adjustment of the Alabama claims, has changed his intention, and now accepts it. Mr. Adams is occupied at his home in Quincy, Massachusetts, in preparing for publication the works and correspondence of his father and grandfather, John and John Quincy Adams, both of whom were Presidents of the United States.

A letter from New York says:—"The principal State elections come off in October and November, but a few unimportant ones take place in August, viz., Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Georgia chooses a new Legislature and State officers, and will probably go Democratic. The other three States are also strongly Democratic, with the exception of North Carolina, where politics are much mixed, and the proposed illegal amendment to the State Constitution has just been defeated. In September California and Maine will begin to give some indications of the flow of the tide, while Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, follow in October. Of these the most important and most in doubt are Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In November New York elects her State officers, with the exception of Governor, and a Legislature, which will choose a United States Senator to succeed the present Senator, Roscoe Conkling. Party relations here are so complicated that the issue is very uncertain. The Republican party seems hopelessly split into two factions, while the action of the State and City authorities on the riot, and the recent exposure of the enormous frauds committed by Tammany, have apparently demoralised the Democrats. The elections this fall are especially significant, as foreshadowing the almost certain drift of the Presidential campaign next year.

The disclosures of the Tammany Ring stealings in New York have resulted in two investigating meetings being called, in an appeal by the Mayor and Controller to the Chamber of Commerce to examine their accounts, and in the determination of the Mayor to publish hereafter monthly tables of accounts. But the particular accounts in which the frauds occur are not yet exhibited, and the general belief is that the villany stands confessed.

It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, that during the month of July the de-

crease of the debt amounted to in round numbers to 1,700,000l. sterling, a sum which is a handsome achievement for an entire year. Since the 1st of March, the opening of the third year of the President's administration, that is, in five months, about 7,500,000l. have been paid off, while since the 1st of March, 1869, when General Grant acceded to office, a reduction of debt amounting in the aggregate to very close upon forty-one millions sterling has been effected. The debt still outstanding of all kinds amounts to 456,000,000l., but of this only about 386,000,000l. bears interest.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

There has been a great fire in the Russian town of Pojack, 500 houses have been destroyed.

The Russian fortification works at Brest Litewski, on the Austrian frontier, have been commenced, but the plan is kept secret.

The King of Greece arrived at Berlin on Monday from St. Petersburg, and proceeded at once to Rumpenheim, near Frankfurt.

According to the Berlin official journal, the Roumania difficulty is in a fair way for peaceable solution.

The rumour as to the death of General Garibaldi is not confirmed. The latest accounts state that he is much better, and has dispensed with medical aid.

Senor Olozaga has been appointed Spanish Ambassador at Paris. It is also announced that the Budget of the Ministry of State has been reduced by 283,550 pesetas.

It is officially announced that the French postal administration have adopted the postal card system, the rates of postage for cards being half that of sealed letters.

Dr. Döllinger, who is just seventy years old, is a very abstemious man. He eschews tobacco and alcohol, rises at four, and goes to bed at nine. His library of 30,000 volumes occupies the whole house.

The *Monde* states that since the French Revolution—that is, eighty years ago—there have been 160 laws regarding the press, one every six months on an average, and the series does not appear to have come to an end yet.

The municipality of Rome has voted a sum of 100,000f. towards the erection of a monument in commemoration of the unification of Italy, and has called upon the other towns of the kingdom to follow its example.

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.—A Russian ukase deprives the German colonies in the Baltic provinces of the special privileges they have hitherto enjoyed.

GENERAL PRIM'S ASSASSINATION.—The Republican deputy, Senor Roque Garcia, has been released, after five months' incarceration for alleged complicity in the assassination of General Prim.

SUPPRESSION OF INFANTICIDE IN INDIA.—According to the *Times* of India no less than 236 villages in the Sharanpore division in the north-western provinces have been proclaimed as places in which measures will be taken for the suppression of infanticide under the Act of last session.

DISCOVERIES AT ROME.—Discoveries of the greatest interest have been made recently at the Baths of Caracalla. A chamber has been excavated with the marble basins still in their places, and a fountain in the centre, into which it is proposed to convey the Acqua Marcia. Near the Pantheon, part of the ancient aqueduct which used to convey the Acqua Vergine to the Baths of Agrippa has come to light; and some great discovery is expected near the Forum.

A SAGACIOUS CONCLUSION.—According to the *Cologne Gazette*, the Prince de Joinville refused recently to become a candidate for the presidency of the French Republic as a short cut to the throne. "But," said the Prince, "if I were King, I should know how to govern well. The means are very simple. I would have a Constitution of two articles; the first article should enact that every Frenchman should be a functionary; the second, that every Frenchman, on reaching the age of five, should be decorated."

SOUTH AFRICA.—The advices from Capetown, which are to the 20th ult., state that the Responsible Government Bill had passed through the Assembly. The Governor had announced that until the colony collectively undertook the management of its own affairs, there could be no local Governments or Federation. The question of the annexation of Basutoland had been under discussion in the Legislative Council, and a select committee was appointed to inquire into, and report upon, the proposal. The bill to repeal the Act for preventing the spread of contagious diseases, which had passed the House of Assembly, and reached the Legislative Council, had also been referred to a select committee.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE BEETHOVEN CENTENARY FESTIVAL was begun on Sunday evening at Bonn, when the Missa Solennis and the Symphony in C minor were performed. A telegram to the *Daily News* says that the mass was given with fine effect by the combined orchestra and chorus of nearly five hundred performers and the four solo singers, Mdme. Alvensleben, Mdme. Joachim, Herr Vogel, and Herr Schulze. The hall was completely filled, and among the musical celebrities present were Sir W. Sterndale Bennett, Mr. Charles Hallé, Herren Joachim, Gade, and Reinecke. The town is filled to overflowing, and the principal hotel and streets are decorated.

SCHOOL TREAT EXTRAORDINARY.—The journals of Lyons contain accounts of a disgusting scene at an entertainment given to the children of the anti-

religious schools in that city. They were marched out accompanied by battalions of the National Guard, with drums and cantinieres, to the Tête d'Or Park, where bread, meat, sausages, and wine were distributed, the drink in such superabundance that in a short time most of them were rolling about in a state of drunkenness or roaring out revolutionary or obscene songs. The number of children seized with illness was so great, that all the medical staff of an ambulance had to be sent for. A number of National Guards also became intoxicated, and seizing on several casks of wine, soon reduced themselves to a state of complete helplessness.—*Galignani*.

THE PONTIFICAL ZOUAVES.—The corps of General de Charette's Volunteers, or Pontifical Zouaves, which in the late war had formed the Legion of the West, has just been disbanded at Rennes. The officers and men were present at a mass on Sunday morning, after which the soldiers formed a square, and General de Charette read to them an order of the day from General de Cissey, Minister of War, thanking the legion for the services which it had rendered at Cercottes, Bron, Coulmiers, Patay, and Le Mans. General de Charette then said that the Minister had added the most noble recompense he could award, namely, to offer to receive the corps of volunteers into the regular army. He had, however, not thought it right to accept that proposal, for they had come as Pontifical Zouaves, and could not introduce into the French service a uniform which did not belong to them alone. He had therefore demanded the disbanding of the body. He expressed his regret at leaving them; after eleven years spent in common, and called on them not to lose faith in their cause, which was that of the Church and of France.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.—The debate on the second reading of the Government Bill on Slavery commenced on the 10th of July. The Opposition moved that the Government bill be laid aside, and that the House take up the bill reported in the session of 1870 by the special committee on slavery, which is analogous to its provisions. After a prolonged and very warm debate, the Government carried, on the 11th, a motion to close the debate, and in the consequent vote on the question of preference, carried it against the Opposition, by a majority of sixty-two to thirty-eight. From the 11th until the 22nd the sittings were occupied with the debate on the first article, that declaring all children born hereafter free citizens which passed on the last-named day by a majority of sixty-two to thirty-seven. Of the passing of the bill through the Chamber of Deputies, with the leading clause—that of free birth—virtually intact, there is now no doubt, provided the Opposition do not succeed in prolonging the discussions beyond the life of the Chamber, as was thought to be their aim. The *Anglo-Brazilian Times* makes the following remarks in a leading article:—"The warm discussions in the Chamber of Deputies during the last twelve days must have effectually convinced the most hesitating of the entire good faith with which the present Cabinet hoisted the banner of national reforms over its programme, and of the earnestness of its endeavours to bring about immediately that reform on which all the others are dependent, the reform that will extinguish slavery. Not a few persons had thought the solution of the great question of the time unlikely to be promoted by a Conservative Cabinet, and still less by one professedly a continuation of that of July 16, 1868; but the earnest and eloquent speeches of the President of the Council and the Minister of Agriculture leave no doubt of the determination of the Cabinet to urge the bill on by every parliamentary means, and of its resolution to live and die with its leading provisions, notwithstanding the clamour, criminations, and even threats of a part of the influential class more proximately affected. Satisfied that the general interests of the nation reclaim immediate solution of the slave problem, the Rio Branco Cabinet is evidently resigned, like that of Sir Robert Peel in the Corn Law question, to endure with equanimity the anger and reproaches of that portion of its party which, dazed by persistent gazing at its one point of view, vaticinates ruin to its class and destruction to the country."

IRELAND.

Dublin rumours refer to the probable resignation of Earl Spencer as Lord-Lieutenant and the appointment of Mr. Chichester Fortescue in his place, the right honourable gentleman being first raised to the peerage. "It is well known that Lady Spencer dislikes Ireland, and that she feels irksome her quasi-regal position. It is also suspected that Lord Spencer will not be sorry should he be allowed or called on to resign. Popular report, not altogether unfounded, had it that the Countess Waldegrave declared that she would never go back to Ireland except as a wife of the Lord-Lieutenant, and as this puts her husband in a difficulty, the matter was temporarily settled by his removal to the Board of Trade."

According to a Dublin telegram in the *Daily Telegraph* (which no other paper confirms), during last week the potato-blight spread to such an extent in Ireland that it is feared the crop will be almost ruined. In some fields in Tipperary fully nine-tenths have rotted already, and the remainder is despaired of. In fact, there has not been such a heavy visitation since the great famine twenty-five

years ago, and were it not for the favourable condition of the cereal crops, the consequences might be as disastrous as then to the peasantry. In the neighbourhood of the potato land the air is most disagreeable from the oppressive odour caused by the blight.

The working classes of Dublin turned out *en masse* on Wednesday to welcome a deputation which has come to Dublin to thank the people of Ireland for their exertions to aid France during and after the late war. The initiative in the matter was taken by the Franco-Irish Ambulance Committee, but their efforts were not seconded by the influential citizens of Dublin. The result has been to impart to the welcome an aspect of party, that party being the Nationalist. At the same time the cheering of the immense crowds that gathered to welcome the Count de Flavigny and his compatriots was most enthusiastic. A grand banquet was given to the French deputation on Thursday night in the Exhibition Palace. About four hundred sat down to dinner, including a considerable number of ladies. The gallery was also well filled with spectators. The Lord Mayor presided. The chairman proposed the toast of "The Queen," and about one half only of the company stood up. The chairman was very impatiently listened to, and at the close of his speech, instead of drinking the toast, many hissed loudly, and shouted, "God save Ireland." The other loyal toasts were similarly received.

The *Times* correspondent says:—

The tables were said to be laid for about 350 guests, but the space occupied was one-third less than at the last banquet, and there was a large proportion of empty seats. The assembly was remarkable chiefly for the absence of respectable citizens. It was instinctively regarded as a demonstration intended rather to display the sentiments of the Nationalists than any genuine sympathy or hospitality, and the effect was that the professional classes, the merchants, and traders of the city, who usually attend public entertainments, were totally unrepresented, and the affair was left in the hands of those who were believed to have engaged in it as a political speculation. With the exception of the Lord Mayor, who, from his official position, probably felt called upon to preside, but avowed his embarrassment, Mr. A. M. Sullivan, and an alderman, the Corporation, consisting of sixty members, not usually averse from convivial assemblies, were nowhere to be seen, and the seats were occupied by a company whom nobody seemed to know, and many of whom seemed from their attire to be unaccustomed to such reunions.

The deputation were entertained at a banquet by the Lord-Lieutenant on Friday evening. During the day they had visited O'Connell's tomb, and explored the city generally. An address was presented to them by the Lord Mayor. Count de Flavigny replied in English. He said this proceeding afforded another proof of the friendly feeling existing between Ireland and France. The address would be kept as a souvenir of the Irish people.

The deputation arrived at Mallow on Monday night, *en route* for Cork. At every station they were received with enthusiastic cheers for France. At Limerick Junction the inhabitants of Tipperary from the surrounding districts had assembled to greet the strangers. The Town Commissioners presented an address. Comte de Flavigny, Mr. Martin, M.P., and Mr. A. M. Sullivan, who accompanied the party, acknowledged the compliment. Bonfires were lighted along the railway embankment, and the greatest enthusiasm was everywhere manifested. At Mallow the party was received by an immense crowd, with banners, and bands playing the "Marseillaise." The Town Commissioners presented an address, and in the course of the evening Comte de Flavigny and Mr. Martin addressed the crowd. The Cork Corporation were to meet the party at Blarney yesterday, and accompany them by road to the city, where the demonstration is expected to be an imposing one.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—The business transacted at the weekly meeting on Wednesday was chiefly formal, such as the reception of reports, &c. It was decided to take over one or two schools which had been offered to the board, and several others which were also offered were declined. Mr. Macgregor brought up a report from the Industrial Schools Committee describing the terms of the agreements made with the managers of the industrial schools respecting the reception of destitute children sent to them by the board, and it was adopted. At its rising the board adjourned until the 6th of September, when it will sit *pro forma* and again rise for another period of three weeks.

BRISTOL.—At the meeting of the Bristol School Board on Friday, a letter was read from Miss Carpenter, in which that lady remarked that the Elementary Education Act and the school boards established under it gave an opportunity of successfully grappling with the underlying stratum of ignorance and wretchedness existing in all large cities. She offered to the board the following suggestions, which she said were based on actual experience:—1st. That a central office should be established in connection with the board, to which all cases of neglected or destitute children should be referred for future action. 2nd. That the police should be instructed to direct to the office all children whom they might find wandering about or destitute. 3rd. That agents should be appointed by the board for the different districts of the city, who should use every effort to induce children

to attend regularly common schools—i.e., ordinary National, British, or other pay schools—applying to the board for payment where the parents were unable to give it. 4th. That applications should be made by the agents to the board on behalf of all children who were shown to be unfit for the common schools for an order for their regular attendance at some day-feeding industrial school approved by the board as fit and proper, or supported by them with payment for education. 5th. That the board, not being able to pay for the food of such children, should arrange with the guardians of the poor to send to day-feeding industrial schools approved by the board all children above three years old receiving parish relief, with payment of not less than 1s. 6d. per week for food and instruction of the child. 6th. That in all cases where it was practicable, weekly payments for the food of the child should be enforced upon parents in relief of the expenses of the school. 7th. That all children who could not be reached by this agency should be brought before the magistrates for sentence to a certified industrial school, payment being enforced on the parents. The members of the board considered Miss Carpenter's letter a most valuable one, and after passing a unanimous vote of thanks to her for her communication, resolved that it should be printed for distribution amongst the members.

Postscript.

Wednesday, August 23, 1871.

LATEST FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

A Versailles telegram states that according to reports current in the bureaux of the National Assembly, an arrangement will probably be come to on the following basis in reference to the question of prolonging the powers of M. Thiers:—

The powers of M. Thiers, with the addition of the title of President of the Republic, to be prolonged for a like term as the duration of the National Assembly. After the recess the Assembly to discuss and vote a Constitution.

A committee of members of the old Catholic party has issued an invitation to the Catholics of Germany Austria, and Switzerland to a Congress, to be held in Munich from the 22nd to the 24th of September. The sittings of the Congress will be of two kinds—deliberative and public.

THE LORDS AND THE BALLOT BILL.—Last night a crowded meeting was held at Leeds, the Mayor presiding, to consider the conduct of the House of Lords in reference to the Ballot Bill. The resolutions, which were all but unanimously passed, recorded a protest against the unceremonious manner in which the Lords had treated the wishes of the country, and tendered the thanks of the assembly to the Government for their determination to push the bill through the Commons during the session just closed. A hope was expressed that the bill, amended so as to provide for keeping open the poll until eight o'clock, will be introduced early next session. The meeting further resolved that, as the House of Lords refused to consider the Ballot Bill in the month of August, alleging want of time as the excuse, the time has come when it is necessary to consider the constitution of that assembly, with a view to bring it into practical harmony with a House of Commons elected on a basis of household suffrage. The speakers included Alderman Carter, M.P., Alderman Joy, Alderman Tatham, Councillor Nettleton, and Mr. T. R. Clarke. A similar meeting was held at Birmingham. Mr. J. S. Wright presided, and the assembly was addressed at some length by Mr. Dixon, M.P. Resolutions similar in character to those adopted at Leeds were passed, but the feeling of the Birmingham meeting, it is stated, was in favour of the total abolition of the Upper Chamber.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The grain trade to-day ruled quiet. Transactions were restricted, and the tendency of prices unfavourable. The supplies of English grain were limited, but the receipts from abroad were good. Wheat of all descriptions met with a cautious sale at about the rates current on Monday last. Barley was in slow request, at previous values. Malt was dull, and in some instances easier. Oats were purchased, to a small extent, on former terms. Beans and peas were difficult of disposal, at recent prices. Flour was dull, and occasionally cheaper to sell.

ARRIVALS.					
	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	140	—	—	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	33,570	6,920	—	46,900	1,990 ahs. 6,220 bls.

COMPARATIVE QUANTITIES AND PRICES OF GRAIN.					
For the week ending Aug. 19, 1871.			For the corresponding week last year.		
Quantities sold.	Average prices.		Quantities sold.	Average prices.	
Qrs.	s. d.		Qrs.	s. d.	
Wheat ... 33,790	57 10		Wheat ... 47,317	59 7	
Barley ... 115	35 9		Barley ... 339	33 5	
Oats ... 1,204	27 6		Oats ... 2,949	25 10	

AMERSHAM HALL SCHOOL,
CAVERSHAM, OXON, near READING.

During the year ending July 22nd, 1871, the following degrees were taken and distinctions obtained by Gentlemen who completed their School Education at Amersham Hall:—
CAMBRIDGE.—B.A., three, of whom one was 14th Wrangler.
General Examination, two.

TRINITY COLL., CAMB.—One Minor Mathematical Scholarship of £75.

TRINITY HALL, CAMB.—Prize in Law and Modern History.

GLASGOW.—Diploma of C.E., one.

LONDON.—B.A., two, of whom one was bracketed 1st in Logic and Moral Philosophy Honours, with University Scholarship of £25 for three years. B.Sc., one, who also obtained a Whitworth Scholarship of £100 for three years. First B.A., two. First LL.B., one; and Matriculation, seven, of whom one was 7th in Honours Division, with Gilchrist Scholarship of £50 for three years.

UNIVERSITY COLL., LONDON.—Faculty of Medicine.—Summer Session, 1870: Five Students gained one Gold Medal, Two Silver Medals, and Six Certificates. Winter Session, 1870-71: Six Students obtained Three Gold Medals, Four Silver Medals, and Five Certificates. Faculty of Arts and Laws and Science: Five Students gained Nine Prizes of Books and Four Certificates; of these gentlemen one also took the Andrews Prize for Second Year's Students, £50, and another the Andrews Entrance Prize, £20, the First Andrews Prize for First Year's Students, £30, and the Jews' Commemoration Scholarship, £15 for two years.

INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY.—Final Examination with Certificate of Merit, one; Intermediate Examination, one; Preliminary Examination, two.

ROYAL COLL. OF SURGEONS.—First Professional Examination for diploma of F.R.C.S., one; Preliminary Examination for Fellowship, one.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Second Prize in Botany, open to Medical Students in their Second Year.

The School Session is divided into Three Terms of Thirteen Weeks each. The NEXT TERM will commence on WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20th.

The payment, made in advance, for the Board and Tuition of a Pupil—

Above 12 years of age is ... £22 per Term.
Under 12 " " " ... £18 " "

Particulars may be obtained on application to the Head Master.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1871.

SUMMARY.

THE public will have heard with concern of the continued indisposition and isolation of the Queen, which has been serious enough to prevent Her Majesty from appearing at Inverary to welcome her newly-married daughter to her Highland home. We can easily believe that Queen Victoria has taken greatly to heart the recent free criticism passed upon her habits of seclusion—which according to medical testimony are a misfortune rather than a fault—and the clamorous and unseemly out-door demonstrations against her family. A reign of faithful service and faultless propriety extending over thirty-three years has not merited such treatment, and it must be trying indeed to the Queen to find so considerable a section of the people forgetful of a brilliant past, and thoughtlessly making the infirmities of their Sovereign a ground of complaint. Some change in the relations of the Queen to her subjects seems to be necessary if the monarchy is to retain its popularity, and Her Majesty's advisers cannot too soon suggest changes which, while satisfying the reasonable requirements of the public service, will extricate the Crown from an invidious position.

French affairs are not working smoothly. Prince Bismark, displeased at the hostile tone of the Paris newspapers, which refuse to take their defeats quietly, and at the military activity

observable across the frontier, throws obstacles in the way of the withdrawal of the German army of occupation. Perhaps, however, the Prussian Minister only awaits the decision of the National Assembly on M. Rivet's motion before he accedes to the demands of the French Government. The commission, to whom the subject of a prolongation of M. Thiers' power was referred, deliberate but do not act; nor does the proposal gain in favour by delay. M. Gambetta disapproves of it; the Left is exacting in its conditions; and though the conviction prevails that the Chief of the Executive must be invested with plenary authority, French ingenuity has been slow to hit upon the best means of effecting it. It is now, however, announced that there is general concurrence in a scheme for making M. Thiers President of the Republic as long as the present National Assembly lasts, with a distinct understanding that, after the vacation, that body will discuss and vote a constitution and create a second Chamber. The Assembly, despite the sultry weather, does not, like our House of Lords, feel free to take a holiday when it chooses. It has to settle the constitutional difficulty, and the questions of the removal of the Government to Paris, of the dissolution of the National Guard, and the bases of taxation before it adjourns—on all of which points the Legislature is said to be at variance with the Chief of the Executive.

The Parliamentary session was brought to a close on Monday—about a fortnight later than usual, but with fewer practical results. Her Majesty has dismissed our legislators with a commendation of their "unwearied labour for the public good"! It cannot be denied that the Prorogation Speech puts the best face on a comparatively unproductive session, and the peculiar constitutional difficulties which have arisen. More than half the paragraphs of the speech relate to foreign relations. One relates to the almost forgotten Conference for the revision of the Black Sea Treaty, and a second gives the assurance that "in those international difficulties which may from time to time arise" in connection "with the great and important changes" on the continent, Her Majesty will only interfere for "the maintenance of general concord and public right"—an expression which is susceptible of various interpretations. Are Her Majesty's Ministers about to take a more active part in European politics, as this phrase would seem to imply? In expressing "special satisfaction" at our relations with the United States, the Royal Speech not only points to the new rules "for guiding the maritime conduct of neutrals," which it is hoped may "form a valuable addition to the code of international law"; but refers to the treaty of Washington as "an application of that principle of amicable reference which was proclaimed by the Treaty of Paris, and which I rejoice to have had an opportunity of recommending by example." This prominent allusion to the value of arbitration for the settlement of international differences is well-timed, and is something like a pledge that the Government will not be slow to carry it further should occasion arise. The last paragraph relating to foreign affairs, deploring in appropriate terms the prospect of a modification, if not a cessation, "to meet the fiscal urgencies" of France, of the Commercial Treaty of 1860.

In the few brief paragraphs devoted to domestic legislation, the conflicts with the Lords are ingeniously slurred over. The Commons are thanked for the moneys voted "to meet the charge of the compensations required by the abolition of purchase in the army," and "my lords and gentlemen" are congratulated—somewhat ironically as it reads—on having passed the Army Regulation Bill, and thereby "laid the foundation for measures calculated to effect a closer union among the various land forces of the kingdom." No distinct reference is made to the rejection of the Ballot Bill, but Her Majesty observes "with concern" the inability of Parliament "to bring to a definite issue the treatment of some of the subjects which were recommended at the opening of the session." The measures actually passed are then referred to, and it is suggested "that, for a long time to come, the great and varied interests of the United Kingdom and of the empire at large, together with the extending demands of modern society, may prevent any lightening of the honourable but arduous burdens of legislation." Unless, however, there is to be another deadlock next session, it will be necessary that some changes shall be made in the mode of conducting Parliamentary business.

The session closed without excitement—hardly a score of members being present to hear the prorogation Speech. In the Upper House on Saturday, in his driest manner, the Earl of Redesdale reviewed the session, and was justly rebuked by the Lord

Chancellor for his gratuitous attack on the other branch of the Legislature. His lordship would be more wisely employed in devising effectual means to meet the demand for a "Reform of the House of Lords" which is springing up in the country, and will be a good deal heard of during the recess. Before the Black Rod summoned the Commons for the last time on Monday, a letter was read from Sir Roundell Palmer denying the statement made by Mr. McCullagh Torrens that he was opposed to the issue of the Royal Warrant, and expressing his opinion that the course taken by the Government, was the least objectionable "under the whole circumstances of the case." This declaration of one of our highest constitutional authorities, who had been eagerly claimed by the opponents of the Government, shows how exaggerated an importance has been attached to the action of Ministers in invoking the authority of the Crown to put an end to the illegal practices arising out of the purchase of commissions.

One useful though not ambitious measure has received the Royal assent. Though Mr. Bruce's Licensing Bill fell through, he has succeeded in carrying the Intoxicating Liquors Licences Suspension Bill, which suspends the licensing power existing prior to its enactment, but makes provision for the transfer of licences, and under exceptional circumstances of new licences, subject to the confirmation of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The object of this provisional enactment is of course to prevent the creation of new vested interests pending the more complete legislation promised by the Government; and it is satisfactory to find that the use of the discretionary powers given to the justices is subject to the strict approval of the Home Secretary.

Mr. Lowe must greatly envy the American Chancellor of the Exchequer. It seems that Mr. Fish has the satisfaction of reporting that since the 1st of March the national debt of the United States has been reduced seven and a half millions, and nearly forty-one millions during the last three years. Taxes are still very heavy in the States, but they are cheerfully borne on patriotic grounds. Happily our American cousins have no aristocratic army to absorb sixteen millions a year and always crying out for more; and no panic-mongers who made it the business of their lives to frighten the population into heavy and useless expenditure. Thus while the Yankees are gradually whittling away the debt, we are obliged to adopt all kinds of ingenious financial expedients to reduce ours by a million or two.

THE SESSION.

ONE of the most laborious and the least-fruitful of the Parliamentary sessions of modern times has just come to a close. It requires an unusual amount of dispassionate discrimination to review it. There is no little danger lest the disappointment, the vexation of spirit, and the unprecedented wearisomeness which its slow progress entailed both upon members of the House of Commons and the political public represented by that House, should warp to some extent men's judgment, and extort a verdict on its character, and especially on the character of Her Majesty's Government, more adverse than the whole history of the session will warrant. It has been one upon which few can look back without being sensible of a momentary revulsion of feeling, and without a wish that it could pass away from their memory, never again to be recalled. It has brought some discredit upon the representative system; it has considerably impaired the good understanding which had previously subsisted between the leader of the House of Commons and not the least active and earnest of his followers; it has loosened the ties of party; it has been pre-eminently characterised by waste of time and strength; and, although it has not been entirely barren of results, those results are disproportionately small in comparison with the exhausting efforts put forth to obtain them.

How is this? Whence has it come to pass that Parliament breaks up this year so little satisfied with the work it has done? Has the conduct of Government been at fault, or has the House of Commons come under the dominion of a factious temper, or is there any peculiarity in the position of public affairs, and in the relation of Parliament to them, which may account for an outcome so much to be regretted by men of all political views and parties? Something, perhaps, is due to each of these causes. The Prime Minister, as the representative of the Government, and as leader of the House of Commons, can hardly be said to have exhibited the foresight, firmness, and outspoken determination of purpose, which enabled him to carry

to a triumphant issue his two great measures of justice to Ireland. We do not profess to account for the fact, but we think it is a fact, that the Gladstone of last session showed himself inferior to the Gladstone of the two preceding ones. Perhaps, the nature of the main question with which he had to deal, took a feebler hold upon his sympathies, and disqualified him for discerning with his usual quickness and clearness of vision, the best plan of the campaign into which it so largely entered. Possibly, moreover, the military and newspaper panic which was got up in consequence of the Franco-German war, gave a sudden impulse to his feelings and purposes, which projected him beyond the limits of that sphere within which he can preserve mastery over himself. Be this as it may, it was impossible not to observe that partly in manner, partly in temper, and partly in intellectual and moral force, the Premier fell short last session of the high standard which his own previous conduct had established. It was a mistake to have sanctioned such an enormous increase of the Army Estimates. It was a mistake, we think, to have hurried forward, just at this time, the question of army reform. It was a mistake to intercalate in the discussions on the abolition of purchase the weak and vacillating proposals concerning the pacification of Westmeath. The Budget was a huge cluster of mistakes which the great Master of Finance ought never to have suffered his Chancellor of the Exchequer to submit to the notice of Parliament. It was even a more serious mistake in tactics to allow every political chief of a department, or nearly so, to bring before the House projects of reform of the most trenchant character, and seriously affecting the material interests of large classes of the people, almost simultaneously, and with the dead certainty that while they would excite much discontent, they could not speedily be carried into law. Mr. Gladstone, we fear, has either been unable, or unwilling, to exercise supremacy over his own colleagues in relation to the measures they were ambitious of introducing. Too much work was set down in the programme—too much by more than a half—too many powerful interests were assailed at one and the same time. The consequence was a union of those interests, both in and out of Parliament, to defeat the Government. Then came that kind of confusion which all men feel, more or less, when the tasks imposed upon them are greater than their strength. Amidst a deal of blind fighting, some of the best Liberals lost their equanimity. The waste of time in what we may call recriminatory discussion was enormous. Everybody saw the evil, almost everybody deplored it, but, to the last, the leader of the House was unable to disentangle the good intention of the House from the meshes in which it had got involved.

The Government, however, was not solely to blame. The character assumed by a section of the Opposition was factious beyond any example we can remember. Mr. Disraeli had lost all control over one band of his supporters, who brought to bear upon the proceedings of the House a pertinacity and impudence of obstruction to which it would be difficult to find a parallel. Less than a score of men, by the systematic use of merely obstructive tactics, might, in the course of a session or two, bring the House of Commons into public contempt. But there is this to be said, that no score of men could have played this game through a whole session, if there had been an *entente cordiale* between the leader of the House and those who professed to support him. They were emboldened to display a factious temper by the knowledge which they had that there was a want of cohesion on the other side. Perhaps, too, if the Speaker and the Chairman of Committees had been more vigorous in the exercise of their authority, there might have been more reluctance on the part of a small minority so obtrusively to trespass upon the forbearance of the majority. Altogether, the struggle of parties during the session, never took the character of a fair stand-up fight between them. It more nearly resembled what (to use a slang term) must be called the "scrimmages" of a mob.

To some extent, there can be no doubt, the unsatisfactory nature of the session must be attributed to the feeling of desperation which has taken hold of the Conservative party in prospect of the political changes which will further weaken their position. They have become convinced that they must make a stand somewhere. The policy of concession, they hold, has been carried to extreme limits. The majority against them is too large and decisive for defeat by an opposition carried on in strict conformity with precedent. The only weapon of defence left them is that of obstruction. Of itself, they know very well that it can only issue in delay. But delay may put them within

reach of the chapter of accidents, and unforeseen chances may once more restore them to power. Like drowning men, they have caught at every straw that offered itself. It was all they could do. It might not answer in the end, but their instincts were stronger than their reason. Hence, in great measure, the serious retardation of business. The bugbear which roused their apprehension was the Ballot ahead. With the aid of the Lords they have postponed this measure for a few months. But in achieving their purpose, they deliberately sacrificed the fruitfulness of the session. The Ministry may have been guilty of more than one blunder. The leading of the House may have been wanting in tact and subtle prevision. But, after all, the comparative barrenness of the Parliamentary session of 1871 must be mainly ascribed to the unprecedented strategy resorted to by Her Majesty's Opposition.

HARVEST PROSPECTS.

THE prospects of the harvest are just now a more inviting theme than the close of an unsatisfactory Parliamentary session. It is a subject which comes home to every household, and largely affects the business prospects of the ensuing year. Every one will be disposed to echo the closing words of the Queen's Speech that "the condition of the revenue, the revived activity of trade, and the prospects of the harvest are subjects for congratulation"; and "that these and all other bounties of Providence will ever meet their fitting acknowledgments in the hearts of a grateful people"—if we are a grateful people. The oppressive heat of this sunny month will be cheerfully borne, as well by the many who are obliged to devote themselves to their daily round of duties, as by the comparatively few who are seeking renewed health amid the sea breezes, or in the holiday tour, with the consciousness that every day's sunshine is improving the ripening crops; and adding to the food resources of the population. But for the scorching sun of August our prospects for another year would have been discouraging. With a fortnight of settled weather, the great bulk of the cereal crops throughout the country will have been safely gathered in.

So far as present appearances go, we are likely to have on the whole a good harvest. In an interesting letter in the *Times*, Mr. H. Kains-Jackson, of Mark-lane, estimates that the wheat crop will be somewhat under an average. This painstaking authority, after noting that, according to all experience, a deficiency of heat creates a deficiency of wheat, remarks:—"It is satisfactory, however, to know that the splendid August weather has transformed straw into corn, and fields that in July only promised three sacks will now yield three quarters. Of course there are a few very fine tracts where six to seven quarters of red wheat per acre will be gathered, but what is of more importance, all lands, light and heavy, will contribute to the grand total, whereas in the late productive seasons only the heavy lands have grown a crop. The yield of oats, barley, beans, and peas is commonly reckoned above an average, and the potatoes, although badly diseased, appear likely to give a good remainder of sound roots, while all sorts of turnips and mangold wurzel promise a surprising weight of produce. Certainly the English year cannot be considered otherwise than one of plenty, allowing for the wheat crop to be deficient fifteen per cent." And then there is an unusual promise of abundant animal food throughout the ensuing winter, and moderate meat prices.

Thanks to free trade a partial falling off in the yield of wheat is of infinitely less importance than under the *régime* of Protection. "Thirty years ago," says the correspondent referred to, "when the average yearly imports were only about one million quarters of wheat, the results of the English harvest naturally were considered very important; but now, with foreign supplies eight to ten million quarters, the yield of our English fields ceases to be of paramount influence." The possibility of a deficient harvest has drawn abundant supplies from the corn-exporting countries, so that at the present moment our granaries are well stocked, and nearly four hundred cargoes are on their way to London. "Sunshine on our fields has," says Mr. Kains-Jackson, "brought gloom on our corn-exchanges during the past month." Prices are dropping, and Mark-lane is discouraged; but a heavy decline has, luckily for our corn factors, been averted by the brisk demand for grain in France, where the wheat crop has been very deficient, and the cost of wheat on the average some five shillings higher than in our markets. Free trade is redressing the balance. It is pointed out by the writer referred to that

the experience of the last twenty years has demonstrated that the world produces wheat at a range of 40s. to 50s. per qr., and that any divergence from such level is occasioned by actual temporary scarcity, or the inadequacy of the means of transit. This season the surplus-producing countries are quite equal to supply the requirements of the corn-importing countries, and it may be expected that our markets will attract all the foreign wheat this country may require, the surplus crops in the United States and Canada—the product of an early harvest, being ready for shipment if needs be.

There is, however, one speck upon the horizon of our food prospects. According to a report, not however very well authenticated, the potato disease is making great ravages in Ireland. There has not been so serious a blight since the fearful potato famine of twenty-five years ago. When the present dry weather is taken into account, it is easy to believe that these reports have been exaggerated. The potato disease is most fostered by wet seasons. But, happily, there is no fear that the terrible experience of a quarter of a century ago will be repeated. The Irish peasantry are, on the whole, better off and better employed, and the farmers grow more cereal crops—which are now flourishing—and less potatoes than formerly. If indeed that crop should be utterly destroyed, the Irish peasantry would soon discover that their connection with England was of more value to them than the cry for "Home rule," and that the "Saxon," so virulently denounced by the Nationalist weekly prints, is a better "friend in need" than a parcel of perambulating Frenchmen brought over to keep alive seditious sentiment among the Irish people.

THE LAND QUESTION.

THE following is the first of two excellent papers with which we have been favoured by the Rev. Christopher Nevile, of Thorney, near Newark, whose unbiassed judgment and practical knowledge of the subject give great weight to his opinions:—

In a paper on the land question by Mr. Odger, he tells us that men of ability have "acknowledged their inability to deal with the increasing poverty of the bread-winners of the kingdom," and that "their failure arose from the shackles which prevented them from moving beyond certain prescribed boundaries"; that "it was made imperative that they should not interfere with certain easily recognised interests, and hence their failure." I cannot hope in a short paper to "settle the land question." It is quite out of my power to deal with the "in-creasing poverty" which arises from causes altogether unconnected with land, such as drunkenness, improvidence, idleness, and vice; but my many years' experience in the agricultural system of our country may enable me to offer some useful suggestions to persons abler and more influential than myself. If I fail, my failure will certainly not arise from any "shackles." I am limited by no "prescribed boundaries." Though a landowner myself, I have no respect whatever for "recognised interests." I cannot for one moment admit that the privileges, or the interests of 30,000 or 300,000 possessors of land should stand in the way of the welfare of a great nation. In my judgment, all property is founded on the public good, and when it will not stand that test, it has no title to rest upon. I shall not therefore differ with the political economists or the working men as to the principles on which the land question is to be discussed. I repudiate all class interests; I am not "in office"; I have nothing to do with "the retention of power" or "retaining a majority," and I disclaim altogether any right, or title, or privilege connected with my possession of land which can be proved to be inconsistent with the public good.

I will first try to sweep away a little rubbish which has accumulated around the land question. Landowners have been said to be "robbers and plunderers" who have got possession of national property, which they should be compelled to disgorge; inasmuch as the land of every country belongs to the people of that country. The parties who enounce this great political axiom might be rather puzzled to apply their own principle in India, Australia, and our other colonies; but as I am willing to assume that all the land in the United Kingdom belongs to the people of the United Kingdom—and that they always have had, and have now, absolute power to deal with it as they think best for the general good—it is not necessary for me to drive my opponents into what appear to me inextricable difficulties. My case is that the people of this country have exercised their undoubted power over the land of the country; that they

have instituted individual property in land; that enormous sums of money have been expended by individuals, to say nothing of labour and skill, by which this land has been increased in value, in many cases ten, or twenty, or fifty fold; and that it would be gross injustice, and totally opposed to the national interest, in the long run, as Paley says, to take the land from them. I fully admit the scandalous and iniquitous sources to which the original title to a great deal of land can even now be traced; but the impossibility of separating these iniquitous titles from those which are just and equitable—the insuperable difficulty of distinguishing the original value of the land from its increased value by the outlay of its successful owners—must render any disturbance of present proprietors inadmissible on the simple ground of the public interest. We may be assured that what is manifestly unjust, can never be expedient. Up to this point, it is a great satisfaction to find that Mr. Odger, in his able paper in the *Contemporary* entirely agrees with me, and I have no doubt that he represents in this view of the subject, an overwhelming majority of the people of this country.

The only question, therefore, between some political economists and many working men on the one side, and myself on the other is—whether or not it would really conduce to the public good that the State should acquire all the land in the country by purchase by “making fair and reasonable compensation to the present proprietors.” As a landowner, I may be permitted to express my very great satisfaction in quoting the very words of Mr. Odger himself. I fully admit the right of the State to purchase every acre of land in the kingdom at its proper value. They always have exercised this right, and whether they purchase thirty acres for a public park, or 30,000,000 acres to let in small farms does not in the least affect the right, or the principle involved. It is a question of expediency.

When doctors differ, there must be some difficulty about the remedy, and certainly the democratic opponents of the landowners do in many cases hold most contradictory opinions. We poor landowners have been accused of making use of our monopoly in screwing out of our unfortunate tenants much more than the land is worth, and so rendering it impossible for them to pay fair wages to their labourers. We are also accused of such carelessness, wastefulness, and ignorance, that we let millions of acres of land to large farmers at 30s. an acre, which might produce a rent in small occupations of 18l. or 20l. an acre. As a landowner I dare not lay claim to being actuated by liberality in this matter. But both these accusations cannot be true. Mr. Bright is supposed to be the most popular man with the working classes now living. He has steadily advocated peasant proprietorship. In deference to this principle public money is to be advanced to small tenants in Ireland to enable them to purchase their farms. The great John Bright's ambition is to make every tenant a landowner. Mr. Odger, on the contrary, wishes to make every landowner a tenant, holding under the State. With all humility, I am opposed to both these theories, and will endeavour to give my reasons.

I hold with Lord Derby that it is impossible to maintain peasant properties in this country against a natural law, which is very easily explained. I have a very skilful, industrious tenant who rents fifty acres of land at 70l. a year. If he is farming with a capital of 10l. an acre, and is making 10 per cent. of this capital, it produces him 50l. a year, besides what he earns by his manual labour. To give the peasant property theory the best chance, I will assume that I, having no heirs, should leave him his farm. I understand my own interest far too well to let my land at a competition rent, and therefore this little farm would probably sell for forty years' purchase; that is, 2,800l. This tenant is a very intelligent man, and he would immediately sell his small farm, and with 1,800l. + 500l. = 3,200l. he would take a larger farm of 820 acres, work it with a capital of 10l. an acre, making an income of 320l., and no longer feel the necessity of manual labour himself. If this tenant were an idle, ignorant, drunkard, his peasant property would last till he had spent the value of it, and no longer. The operation of a natural law renders it practically impossible to preserve peasant proprietors in this country.

THE BATTLE WITH IGNORANCE.

THE conflict with ignorance has at length commenced in grim earnest in this country. The various school boards elected in various parts of the kingdom, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, have discovered that mere talking

will not suffice; that if anything really effectual is to be done, action must take the place of words. In this respect the Metropolitan School Board, as befits an organisation representing the English capital, has boldly assumed the lead. Unfettered by mere denominational or political considerations, the members of the London School Board have zealously devoted themselves towards accomplishing the object for which they have been brought together,—the rectification of the numerous educational deficiencies existing in the metropolis. We may differ from some of the views officially entertained by the members, but we can conscientiously express our approval of the earnestness and zeal displayed by them in their efforts to successfully grapple with the great educational problem which has so long contrived to baffle the efforts of our social reformers. Their real difficulties commenced with the practical application of the principles which they had laid down. They found, as all educational reformers before them had learned from painful experience, that the classes most in need of education were precisely those most difficult to reach; and that unless they secured these, and brought proper educational influences to bear upon them, the board would have laboured in vain.

The children whose neglected educational condition we have alluded to, are principally the offspring of what are termed the dangerous classes; of professional mendicants, loose women, drunkards, thieves, and the like. These poor little ones very truly deserve the name of gutter children. That term correctly designates their character. They are veritable children of the gutter. To rescue them from the clutch of ignorance, to bring them within the pale of civilisation, and to give them the chance of a useful position in life, necessitated the employment of a special description of educational machinery, the ordinary appliances being suitable only for ordinary occasions. Hence the appointment, by the London School Board, of an Industrial School Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. William Green, a gentleman who has zealously devoted himself to the discharge of the arduous duties entrusted to him. To this committee was delegated the task of dealing with the street children, the miserable waifs and strays of civilised life. But although Mr. Green and his colleagues were armed with full powers to snatch up any of these child arabs and send them to an industrial school, they found themselves confronted with a formidable difficulty in the fact that the law did not permit them to touch street-sellers. No matter how young, how neglected, or how miserable the child, let him but possess a halfpenny box of cigar fuses, and the committee were powerless. That halfpenny box of fuses was an insurmountable barrier between them and the child. Here we have a forcible illustration of the many obstacles which often prevent the successful working of the simplest educational measures. It is almost pitiable to reflect that the most important part of our educational machinery can be brought to a standstill by a halfpenny newspaper or a halfpenny box of cigar lights.

This fact has induced the committee to issue an interesting memorandum relative to children occupied as street traders. In this document we are informed that—

In the middle of July an inspection was made of the numbers and occupations of children under thirteen years old observed in the streets from the Royal Exchange by Temple Bar and Regent-street to the Oxford-circus, also from Farringdon-circus along Holborn to the Marble-arch. The following is a summary of the result:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Road-sweepers	14	—	14
Crossing-sweepers	—	—	0
Licensed shoeblacks	27	—	27
Other shoeblacks	6	—	6
Sellers of matches	45	11	56
Sellers of newspapers	42	5	47
Sellers of other articles	8	4	12
	137	20	157

Besides these children, there were of persons in the same streets over thirteen years old at the same employments—164 men and 64 women; total, 250, of whom eight were crossing-sweepers, and in addition there were 77 persons with advertising boards between Temple-bar and the Oxford-circus. Thus in about five miles of the most frequented thoroughfares there were 157 children street-workers, or about thirty to the mile. Nearly all these children are without any special control of their conduct. Their struggles to secure custom are without regulation, so that when the competitors are vigorous and active their business is impeded by their own zeal; and their disturbance of the public thoroughfare is rendered more objectionable.

These juvenile street sellers belong to the same class as the ordinary gutter children, and require precisely the same kind of educational influences. The committee propose that all metropolitan juvenile street traffic should be placed under pro-

per regulations, and that no children should be allowed to trade without a licence in the public streets. Each licence would hold good for half a day and no longer. During the other half of the day, the licence-holder would have to attend school. To each child would be allotted a station, as in the case of the metropolitan shoeblacks; a precaution which would prevent abuse of the licence. No licence would be issued to a child not attending school:—

Next, with regard to the crossing-sweepers, and the road-sweepers. Experiments tried a few years ago showed that when a crossing-sweeper has to beg while he is at his post only one-sixth of his time is occupied by his work, and five-sixths by begging. A crossing-sweeper forbidden to beg could easily keep six crossings perfectly clean. A box on the lamp-post near each of these should receive what some passengers may wish to give, and a proportion should be paid to the boy besides regular wages, while promotion and prizes for good conduct and good work should be arranged under inspection as in the shoeblack societies. The present holders of crossings should be first invited to join the corps, and if they refuse new crossings near them can readily be started. Old or infirm holders of crossings should be left in possession or offered a small payment where little work has to be done. All these arrangements can be lawfully made under the present law by the local boards, but only in the City, and in one West-end parish, have they been carried into effect. It is monstrous that begging, which is punished in general, should be allowed, not to say encouraged, for every person who can hold a broom. The match-sellers and other similar classes should each have a “beat” assigned between certain lamp-posts. The newspaper boys should be posted in like manner, and allowed to place their bundle of newspapers on the kerb, protected by the lamp-post. The whole of these should have numbered badges. Voluntary associations will soon arise to organise these children, as they have done with regard to the shoeblacks. The children themselves will speedily perceive that their earnings and their education and future success are advanced by organisation, and so a vast number of those who are now miserable will be enabled to earn a better livelihood in an orderly way. The number of shoeblack-boys in London is perhaps 800, and of these the 369 shoeblacks in the six regular societies alone earn more than 10,000l. a year. Probably 2,000 children street-workers, if properly managed, would be enabled to maintain themselves while they were being moderately educated, and, moreover, to save money sufficient to start them in life in more regular employment.

The committee indicate the various provisions necessary to secure the above objects, which, if accomplished, would occasion a great social revolution; but it is clear that there will be many difficulties to overcome before the street-sellers can be brought into the school net. In the meantime, the committee have not been slow in utilising the powers already possessed by them. From the 5th of June to the 1st of August last, the committee's officers, popularly known as the boys' beadies, took in hand 137 cases of street-children. Of these, the majority were boys, who numbered 116, against twenty-one girls. Several were warned and restored to their parents, a few were ordered to be further watched or referred to the boys' beadie, one was sent to a reformatory, thirty-four were forwarded to certified industrial schools, several cases remaining under remand. The difficulty of dealing with these children is shown by a significant fact. The master of the Bow Workhouse recently reported to the City of London Union that eleven children—little street Arabs—had been sent to the workhouse from the Mansion House Police-station by the Lord Mayor on the application of the officers of the London School Board. They were all children, the master reported, who had led a vagrant life in the streets, and conducted themselves in the house in a most unruly manner. He had, he said, the greatest difficulty in dealing with them. One boy absconded—made his escape clean out of the house. Others threatened to break the windows if they were not liberated. He was obliged to place a girl in the casual ward as punishment, so violent was her conduct. Of course these children will be sent to proper industrial schools. These details show that the London School Board have already been enabled to reach a portion of our neglected child population, and to exercise an amount of moral influence which cannot be well illustrated by mere statistics. One point, brought into prominence by the experience of the Board, is very important. It is that their system of dealing with the street children does not produce the effect, predicted by some, of causing the parents to place the children in the way of the officers, with the view of being relieved of the burden of their support. On the contrary, the system is practically deterrent. Every case is reviewed by the committee before being dealt with by the magistrate, so that there is ample security that no abuse of the system is possible. To ensure the proper working of this precaution, a sub-committee meet every Tuesday for the purpose of receiving the reports of the boys' beadies and furnishing instructions respecting the same.

From this it will be seen that, whatever views may be entertained with respect to the real utility of the mode of action adopted by the London School Board, or as to the changes and improvements necessary to render its influence more effectual, the battle with ignorance has fairly begun, and the ball of educational progress set fully in motion.

MEN AND THINGS IN AMERICA.

(By a Cosmopolitan.)

NEW YORK STATE, August.

POLITICS AND THE PRESS.

Politics furnish a curious subject of study in the United States. In this country a politician is estimated by the number of votes he can command, and singular illustrations of this are sometimes found in the press. Last week the *Troy Times*, a daily paper having the largest circulation of any newspaper in this State outside of New York city, published the following respecting the keeper of a drinking saloon:—

The man is a lecherous rascal, who has little if any political influence, and his place is a disgrace to this city. It ought not to be a very difficult task, therefore, to effectually close it.

The words I have italicised must not be understood to express the sentiments of the *Troy Times*. They are simply a smart poke at the city authorities, who notoriously shield such men as the one referred to if they happen, as is too often the case, to possess "political influence."

In this State the "Irish vote" is the greatest obstacle to pure government and just administration. By Irish aid "Boss" Tweed and Co. have made the civic rule in New York city the greatest scandal of corruption and robbery in the world. Napoleon and Haussmann were angels in their management of Parisian finances to the way in which "the ring" rob the citizens of New York, and this system of wholesale plunder is sustained by the Irish Americans, who vote *en masse* for the leaders of the ring. The Irish vote also gives Tweed the power to do as he likes with the State Legislature at Albany, and hence this man is really an autocrat. Let the working men of England think of this fact—that Boss Tweed has in some respects more power and less responsibility than ever Napoleon III. had.

For months past I have lived in this State, read its newspapers, mingled among its editors, clergy, merchants, and people; and I find that as far as regards New York State there is already more real Republicanism in England in political affairs than here. In private nobody denies this except interested Democrats, who are just as anxious as the most selfish English Tory to keep things as they are.

I do not, however, regard the state of things as any encouragement to those who condemn Republics as Republics. Matters are in New York exceptional, and will continue to be so as long as the Irish vote is paramount. I have found no two opinions among cultivated and enlightened Americans here respecting the great cause of political troubles. In private conversation all are agreed that it is the extent and looseness of the suffrage that is the basis of the mischief. The papers do not say this, but the editors do. "Manhood suffrage" is all very well, but when it is really a synonym for human voting machines without any true manhood, then it is only a curse. If I might say one word to my old friend George Potter, I would ask him to be cautious in using his influence towards bringing about in England such a system as exists here. It is not the Potters, the Odgers, or the Howells who are politically influential in this State, but the Tweeds, the Jim Fisks, and men of like calibre. Such men as George Potter have far less political power here than in the old country.

It must not be supposed that native Americans feel comfortable under the way in which they are swamped by the least reputable part of the community, but while they are smarting under a sense of wrong, they are powerless to move. Universal suffrage stamps out all efforts at reform. While working men in England are haggling over a few thousands for the Princess Louise or Prince Arthur, the men who govern this State are robbing the people not of thousands but of millions. Senators are bought and sold, judges are corrupted, and the Juggernaut of villany makes a triumphant progress, crushing beneath its conquering wheels honour, virtue, and purity. Those who doubt this will find the proofs of what I state given in detail in articles now appearing in the *New York Times*.

A curious illustration of the real feelings of Americans was seen during the recent excitement regarding Orangeism in New York city. Then there was one loud and universal "wild shriek of

liberty" from the press. The editors at ordinary times are many of them too much afraid of mob violence to speak out, but on this occasion they felt so strong in the support of the public that they one and all, with the exception of the Catholic organs, denounced "the disturbing element" with a thorough heartiness, which showed how the bile had accumulated. Since then the "Irish vote" has begun to reassert its influence, and many papers, trembling at their own temerity, have begun to lower their tone. Nevertheless, the feeling of antagonism exists, and will grow in strength until sooner or later Irish voters are either overwhelmed or made good citizens.

Americans are proud of a free press, but the press in many places is not entirely free. I heard myself the following conversation pass between the editor of an influential paper and one of his contributors:—

Contributor: You lately published a report of a Fenian meeting; will you publish these remarks on it?

Editor: Let me see them. (Reads MS. carefully and hands it back.) It is all very true, but I dare not publish it. If I did, my office and my life would be in danger.

Contributor: Do you call that a free press?

Editor: The press is not free to deal truthfully with such questions.

The reporter of a daily paper, who had described a Fenian leader as "a noble-looking warrior," told me that he never saw such a "hangdog-looking scoundrel" in his life, but that he "knew who he was writing for."

Newspapers must be judged leniently for these things. They all know that Fenianism is a humbug from beginning to end in America, but they know also that "the Irish vote" is a great power, and that Irishmen possess revolvers as well as votes. There is also this strange peculiarity about American Irishmen, that while as a whole even themselves are very lukewarm towards Fenianism, and while a large proportion of them speak of it as "d—d folly," they nevertheless bristle like porcupines if anybody else speaks against it.

The immense influence the Irish vote has gained in this State is shown by the following list of public officers in New York city, which I copy from the *Public School Journal*:—

P. B. Sweeney, Pres. Park Com., Roman Catholic.
Richard B. Connolly, Controller, Roman Catholic.
Bernard Smyth, Receiver of Taxes, Roman Catholic.
Richard O'Gorman, Corporation Counsel, Rom. Cath.
James B. Nicholson, Com. Charities, Rom. Catholic.
Owen W. Brennan, Com. Charities, Roman Catholic.
Wm. Hitchman, Pres. Fire Dept., Roman Catholic.
John H. Williams, Pres. Board of Ex., Rom. Cath.
Matthew T. Brennan, Sheriff, Roman Catholic.
Michael Connolly, Register, Roman Catholic.
J. H. McCunn, Judge Superior Court, Rom. Catholic.
J. R. Brady, Supreme Court Judge, Rom. Catholic.
C. P. Daly, Judge Court Com. Pleas, Rom. Catholic.
James M. Sweeney, Clerk Sup. Court, Rom. Catholic.
L. Clancy, Clerk Marine Court, Roman Catholic.
Thomas J. Barr, Police Commissioner, Rom. Catholic.
Robert C. Hutchings, Surrogate, Roman Catholic.
Richard O'Gorman, Pres. Com. Emigration, R. C.
Thomas J. Creamer, Tax Commissioner, Rom. Cath.
John Galvin, Pres. Board Assist. Ald., Rom. Cath.
Wm. H. Molony, Clerk Board Assist. Ald., R. Cath.
Thomas Coman, Pres. Board Ald., Roman Catholic.
John J. Bradley, Chamberlain, Roman Catholic.
Edward Hogan, Police Judge, Roman Catholic.
Thomas A. Ledwith, Police Judge, Roman Catholic.
E. J. Shandley, Police Judge, Roman Catholic.
John M'Quade, Police Judge, Roman Catholic.
Dennis Quinn, Civil Judge, Roman Catholic.
Thomas Kivlin, Civil Judge, Roman Catholic.
Joseph Maguire, Civil Judge, Roman Catholic.
Wm. J. Cane, Civil Judge, Roman Catholic.
Bernard Smyth, President Department Public Instruction, Roman Catholic.
John Mullaly, Health Commissioner, Rom. Catholic.

In a subsequent article I shall show your readers how the Catholics have developed a new union of Church and State in the Empire State. The Romanists have secured, and are fighting hard to maintain, a firm grip on the public purse.

THE CHOLERA.

A Berlin telegram of yesterday's date says:—"The cholera still prevails at Konigsberg. On the 18th and 19th inst. 111 cases occurred, of which 56 proved fatal. On the 20th, 87 persons were attacked and 32 died. At Dantzig and Elbing a few cases occurred. No case has occurred at Stettin. Asiatic cholera has been confined in the north to the district of Suwalki."

Advices from the Russian province of Suwalki state that cholera is on the decrease. From the 20th to the 27th of July there were 238 fresh cases. The whole number of cases that had occurred was 443, and of the persons attacked 83 had died, while 190 had recovered.

Dr. Buchanan, the Medical Inspector of the Privy Council, has been consulting with the various boards connected with the port of London, to ensure a complete and uniform plan of precautionary measures against cholera. The work of inspecting ships, &c., will be done at Gravesend, and all the river-side districts will join in the expense.

Mr. Netten Radcliffe was visiting the ports from Boston to Southampton. He has invented a new hospital tent, which seems likely to render valuable service in facilitating the isolation of persons suffering from contagious diseases.

At Hull, on Wednesday, the master of a vessel trading to Cronstadt was summoned for a breach of the Privy Council quarantine orders. Mr. Travis imposed the maximum penalty, 20*l*.

The *Lancet* remarks:—"It cannot be too widely known that cholera, although often preceded by what has been called premonitory diarrhoea, is a disease *sui generis* from its commencement to its close, and quite incapable, as far as we know, of originating in our climate from the influence of those insanitary conditions which foster and increase the poison when once it has been introduced. The so-called 'choleraic' diarrhoea, therefore, is not a form of cholera, or a first stage of it, or even a milder variety; but is something altogether separate and distinct. It may prevail when cholera prevails, just as scarlet fever and smallpox might both be epidemic at the same time; and it is sufficiently often a cause of death to figure largely in the returns of the Registrar-General, and to justify alarm when it attacks the feeble, the very young, or those advanced in life. The English cholera, or choleraic diarrhoea, or sporadic cholera of the bedside, may be easily be called 'cholera' by non-professional persons, and then Asiatic cholera by neighbours, until a simple malady is made to furnish a line of capitals in the sensation placards of the evening papers; and in times like these the spreading of consternation in a locality is itself no small evil."

THE BABY-FARMING INIQUITY.

The report of the House of Commons' Select Committee on Baby Farming, just issued, throws farther light on the abominations of the system. We learn that 481 bodies of infants were found in the streets of London in less than seventeen months, and that 3,000 a year represents, according to Dr. Lankester, the crime of infanticide in England. A medical officer of Marylebone describes the typical baby-farm in his district. "The house," he says, "is generally situated in a back street, and either the cellars or the garrets, inasmuch as they are the cheapest, are rented by the nurses taking the children in. It is unusual to find five children under six months old; but it is not unusual to find two or three under six months, three or four ranging up to six years of age." As a rule the women who conduct these baby-farms are persons of drunken habits; and the witness added:—

If you go into a kitchen where there is a baby farm, you will find the children huddled together, and the place really stinks; whereas, if you went into a back kitchen, in the same place, inhabited by a father and mother, and as many as seven or eight in one room, you would not find that amount of neglect; you would find that the woman went out charring, and the man went out, perhaps, two or three days a week; but you would find there an amount of cleanliness and sobriety which you do not find in the other places. In the latter the children are starved, and the woman lives on gin; and they often give gin and opiates to the children simply to keep them quiet. The legitimate children are better treated than the illegitimate.

The Secretary of the Harveian Medical Society showed that the mortality of illegitimates in this country is equal to about what it is in France, ranging from sixty to ninety per cent. of deaths, and this is confirmed by an inquiry instituted by Dr. Bachofner, in Marylebone—where nearly all are farmed out, because the mothers are principally domestic servants—without reference to the large number of illegitimate children who are known to be not registered, and who die in the greatest proportion, "because here is a previous desire on the part of the mother and nurse that the child should not live." And much more to the same effect, which it is impossible to quote.

GEORGE MULLER'S ORPHANAGES AT BRISTOL.

The facts recorded in Mr. Muller's last annual statement, as summarised by the *Bristol Post*, are of a very extraordinary character.

The Ashley-down Orphanage (which is the principal feature of Mr. Muller's enterprise) does not possess a 6*d*. of endowment, it has not a single annual subscriber, boasts no patron, vice-patron, officers, or committee, holds no yearly or half-yearly meetings, never appears on the Exeter Hall or any other platform, employs no collectors or canvassers, whether clerical or lay, issues no annual report—excepting so far as the narrative of which we are now treating may be taken to be one—and never appeals, either verbally or through the press, for support. It is in the eyes of its founder and sole director a grand example of the power and efficacy of human faith. Many trials, Mr. Muller tells us, have had during the year to be endured by him. Scarlet fever, he says, has prevailed among some of the little objects of his care, but he adds, "Very few comparatively have died in consequence, and great has been the mercy of God in removing the sickness entirely from our midst." Trials of faith he has had, too, in the sickness of some of the helpers, in the death of one whom he names, in the scarcity of rain-water, and in other ways, "but in all these things," he writes, "we found that we did not call upon God in vain, but were supported and helped." There is another feature pe-

culiar to the Ashley-down Orphanage which ought not to pass by unnoticed. Not an atom of work has been commenced until the money was in hand to pay for it. "As from the beginning so now also," Mr. Müller states on page 4 of his narrative, "we would under no circumstances contract debt, but act according to God's mind by first obtaining the needed means." We gather from the report that Mr. Müller has received from the beginning "above 500,000*l.* as the result of prayer and faith." This colossal sum, of course, has relation to the operations, small and large, of the thirty-seven years during which the Scriptural Knowledge Institution has been working, and has been applied not only to the erection and maintenance of the orphan houses, but to the support of missions and schools in various parts of Great Britain and the world, and the circulation of the Holy Scriptures and religious works based on them. As many as 150 missionaries are assisted from the funds. From the commencement 23,000 children or grown-up persons have been taught in the various schools entirely supported by the institution (as Mr. Müller is pleased to designate it), besides tens of thousands benefited in other schools assisted by its funds. Added to this, more than 64,000 Bibles, 85,000 Testaments, 100,000 smaller portions of the Holy Scriptures in various languages, and 29,000,000 of religious tracts, have been issued and distributed through its agency. Upon the support of the orphans, in procuring the admission of whom no favouritism whatever can possibly prevail, there has been expended from the commencement an almost fabulous sum. The erection of the five orphanhouses alone has cost 115,000*l.* The expenses of the houses during the past year, quite exclusive of any assumed interest on the capital outlay, have been 22,660*l.*, but as the numbers are now very large they will be greater next year. Mr. Müller says, indeed, on page 31 of his little book, "We shall not only require again 39,000*l.* (for all departments), as during the past year, but considerably more still, perhaps 5,000*l.*, 6,000*l.*, or 7,000*l.* more." In glancing through the considerable portion of the pamphlet from which a knowledge is to be derived of the mode in which the funds are supplied to Mr. Müller's hand, we find the help comes in almost every variety of amount from all parts of the world; it is given sometimes in cash and sometimes in kind; and it is to a very large extent indeed sent in anonymously. Among the heaviest sums received during the year, we note a legacy of 5,000*l.*, with 196*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* added as interest, from the late J. A.; a legacy of 1,000*l.* from W. R., who, Mr. Müller tells us, was so complete a stranger to him through life that he had not even heard his name; a donation of 500*l.* from "A Christian Gentleman"; one of 700*l.* (500*l.* of it for the Spanish Mission) from a donor not specified; 300*l.* from "A Christian Noble Lady"; 400*l.* from an unnamed person living at a considerable distance; 500*l.* from a manufacturer; 350*l.* from "near London"; 500*l.* "from a considerable distance"; the sum of 700*l.* in Turkish Bonds and 10 shares in the Italian Irrigation Canal Company, by some one not specified. Anonymously and Somersetshire, fifteen 20*l.* Honduras Government Railway Bonds. There are several sums of 250*l.* and 200*l.*, many of 100*l.*, and others ranging down to the offering of 2*s.* 6*d.* by "A Former Orphan" and a like sum by "A Very Poor Woman."

THE STOWMARKET EXPLOSION.

The inquest upon the sufferers by this explosion was resumed on Friday by Mr. F. B. Marriott, the local coroner. Mr. Clode, solicitor for the War Office, was in attendance. The Coroner stated that he had been in communication with the Home Secretary, who had sent down Captain Majendie. The captain had remained in the district since Tuesday, and at his recommendation samples of the gun-cotton remaining at the works would be analysed by two eminent chemists on behalf of the Crown. Evidence establishing the identity of several of the persons killed by the explosion was then proceeded with.

John Thomas was then called. He said he was employed at the works, and had frequently smelt the acid so strong after the cotton had come out of the poaching room that he often thought the works were not safe. He had frequently told the foreman who was killed that he was afraid of an accident, and had several times stated that the buildings were getting so hot that they were not safe, but he was generally met with a request to mind his own business, and that the works were safe enough. The witness, in answer to Captain Majendie, said that he could not state that heat was necessary to cause gun-cotton to explode.

Evidence of an important and painfully interesting character was given by Mr. Trotman, manager of the works. Mr. Trotman was in his office when the explosion occurred. He heard a heavy thud, and at the same moment found himself standing amid the ruins of the building. He at once ran to the shattered sheds by the river side, and, calling out to know if any one was there, he was answered by moans. He dragged away the bricks, and discovered two men, whose lives he was instrumental in saving. He then met the two Messrs. Prentice, and had scarcely left their side when the second explosion occurred, which blew one of them to atoms. On the Friday preceding the explosion there were twenty-one tons of gun-cotton on the premises, but ten tons were sent away. The place was so full that a packing shed was made temporarily into a magazine. The cotton made for Go-

vernment was of the greatest dynamic strength, and an explosion occurred some years ago through too much hot air being admitted into the drying-house. No heat meter is kept in the magazine. He believed that heat had something to do with the present explosion, such accidents having always occurred in this unlucky month. With his present experience, he considered the factory too near the railway-station and the town. The earth mounds between the buildings had been removed, and brick walls substituted. He could not say that no persons with nails in their shoes were ever admitted to the drying rooms. In further cross-examination, Mr. Trotman admitted there were four tons more gun-cotton on the works than allowed by law. He adhered to his theory that solar heat had something to do with the explosion, and admitted that this would suggest danger; but with regard to magazines this might be obviated. It was proved that Hawes had observed the magazine was very hot. Had the earth mounds been maintained all round the building, the first explosion would have been localised. Mr. Trotman further stated that a fortnight ago some impure cotton, which is highly explosive, had passed the chemist and nearly found its way to the magazines.

On Saturday, Professor Abel denied that he was a shareholder in the Gun-cotton Company, and said his only interest was a royalty in the use of his patent. Mr. Trotman, in answer to Captain Majendie, said that no cotton from the magazine was tested after the discovery of the impure cotton a fortnight ago. A testing process took place on a similar occasion two years ago, and more of that cotton was discovered. Colonel Younghusband, Superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Works at Waltham Abbey, described the results of some experiments, showing the explosive qualities of gun-cotton by ignition, which were carried out several months ago by direction of the Government. These established the following points:—1st. The non-liability of compressed gun-cotton to explosion by accidental ignition when stored in magazines in the proper boxes. 2nd. The ignition of a package of compressed gun-cotton, forming part of a store, was not necessarily attended by the immediate ignition of the neighbouring boxes, as would be the case with gunpowder. 3rd. Gun-cotton was perfectly non-inflammable when stored in the damp condition. Colonel Younghusband added, that further experiments ought to be made with gun-cotton in a dry state, and that its storage should be conducted with great care. The further hearing was adjourned until Friday.

Mr. Eustace Prentice, managing director of the Patent Safety Gun-Cotton Company (Limited), has returned to England, and will present himself for examination at the adjourned inquest at Stowmarket on Friday. The subscription made for the relief of the sufferers now exceeds 1,200*l.*

Crimes and Casualties.

Mr. Daniel Berry, Unitarian minister at Mossley, died on Tuesday of hydrophobia, resulting from the bite of a cat about three months ago.

Mr. Nash, of Royston, Cambridgeshire, and formerly of Downing College, Cambridge, shot himself on Saturday with a gun, the barrel end of which he put into his mouth.

At Edinburgh, on Thursday, William Hamilton Thompson, sheriff substitute of Invernesshire, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for forgery.

On Saturday morning, upon a train running between Camden-road and Moorgate-street entering Farringdon-street station, it was discovered by the officials that a gentleman was lying dead in a second-class carriage. The body was removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where it was recognised as being that of Mr. Greville, a City solicitor.

A remarkable case has been under treatment in the accident ward at Guy's Hospital. A man was attempting to separate two cocks that were fighting, when one of them flew at him, and spurred him in the chin and throat. Lockjaw supervened, and the poor fellow is in a dying state, if not dead already.

Near Appleby, the other day, a cattle-dealer was riding home on horseback when a man stopped his horse and demanded his money or his life. But behind the cattle-dealer was a farmer, who at once slipped off the horse's back and knocked the robber down. The highwayman regained his feet and ran away, but was soon caught and lodged in the police-station.

A melancholy accident is reported from Guernsey. A small party of ladies and gentlemen went out for a picnic to Le Gouffre, a splendid group of rocks. Mrs. Gill, being an active climber, ventured too near a dangerously projecting headland, the grass was extremely slippery, she missed her footing, and in an instant was precipitated from rock to rock and dashed to pieces in a deep gully.

A serious yacht accident is reported from Plymouth. A yacht belonging to Mr. Hay, of Morice Town, with the owner, Mr. Welch, a boatbuilder, and a young man named Luck, went out on a fishing excursion, and at night, a wrong course having been taken, the yacht was brought up in Hope Cove for shelter. It was blowing strongly from the south-east. The party were warned by some fishermen as to their dangerous situation. Ultimately,

finding that the sea was too strong, they attempted to wear, when the craft, about ten tons burden, was seen to turn over. The yacht was on Friday picked up bottom upwards, and there is no doubt the three occupants perished.

Bathing and boating accidents have been terribly numerous during the last few days. On Saturday Mr. David Smith, of Brixton, was drowned while bathing at Shaldon, near Teignmouth, in presence of his wife and little boy. On Saturday morning Mr. Edward Hopkins, a publican, of the Borough, was drowned at Ramsgate. In this latter case the doctor's opinion was that disease of the heart existed. On Sunday morning a sad accident happened in the Solent. There were in a boat six young men. The boat capsized. Four of the men clung to the boat, and Mr. Hoppood, who could swim well, took one of them, a Frenchman, on his back, and tried to save him. The Frenchman succeeded in getting hold of the boat, but unfortunately Hoppood missed his grasp, and was drowned. The other five were rescued by a tug in a very exhausted state. A fatal bathing accident has happened at Chatham. Henry Nye, a youth of eighteen, with a younger lad, was bathing and swimming from a boat opposite the Sun Pier, when he was seized with a chill or cramp. The boy who was with him swam to his aid and got hold of him, but was obliged to shake himself clear or both would have perished. Nye was swept away by the tide, and his body was not recovered. Five lads have been drowned on the Avon whilst bathing. When will the "rising generation" learn the importance of acquiring the necessary art of swimming?

There was a destructive fire at Leicester on Thursday night at the Talbot-lane factory of Messrs. Russell and Dainsthorpe, lambswool-spinners. In a short time, owing to the quantity of oil and other combustibles used in the trade, the whole of the premises were in flames. About 120 hands, chiefly women, were on the premises, the only means of egress being through the staircase near the place where the fire originated. They were compelled to jump from the various rooms in which they worked, some dropping a depth of four stories, and sustaining serious injuries. Within an hour the entire premises were completely gutted, and the whole of the machinery destroyed. Two of the factory girls have died. Two others are in a dangerous condition, but with these exceptions, it is stated, the injured persons are doing well.

A district in the county of Surrey, known as the Devil's Jumps, has been the scene of an extraordinary crime. On Saturday last a man named Rodway entered the house of Mr. Carington, a gentleman of position and an astronomer, and having obtained an interview with Mrs. Carington, in the absence of her husband, stabbed her in a fearful manner with a large and strong clasp knife. On the servants coming in, Rodway escaped, but was apprehended after he had made desperate but ineffectual efforts to kill himself. He had inflicted on himself a number of wounds, evidently aimed at the heart, but had failed in his purpose, and his life is not considered in immediate danger. It would also appear that Mrs. Carington's recovery is considered possible. The motive of the crime is said to be jealousy, Rodway having been a suitor of Mrs. Carington before her marriage with her present husband.

Deaths by lightning have been remarkably numerous during the past week—the thunderstorms in various parts of the country having been very severe. At Manchester, a young man named Baxter, who was returning home from his day's work, was struck dead by the lightning. On Saturday a peculiarly shocking case occurred at Abney Grange, near Bakewell, in Derbyshire. Mr. Thomas Middleton, a farmer, was seated at table, taking tea with his wife, when a flash of lightning struck his residence, and descending through a bedroom at the front of the house, struck a bedstead and then passed to the lower room, where Mr. and Mrs. Middleton were seated. The former was instantly killed on the spot, while Mrs. Middleton was injured in the leg. Robert Wright, a man in their employ, and who was also in the same room, was injured in his cheek. The effect of the lightning was such as to literally break the bedstead into small pieces, and these were found scattered about. On the preceding day, Friday, there was a still more deplorable catastrophe in the Wear Valley, near Newcastle. About four o'clock in the afternoon, in the midst of the storm, and after a fearful crash of thunder, the farmhouse of Knavesmire, about a mile from the village of Hamsterley, occupied by Mr. Matthew Wilkinson, was observed to break out into flames. On arriving there the house was completely enveloped in flames. Mrs. Wilkinson lay outside the door on the ground insensible, her husband, with his head resting upon her knee, quite dead, and a child by his side struck blind with lightning. It would seem that the family were sitting in the kitchen having tea, when a terrific flash of lightning, followed by an awful peal of thunder, broke over the farm, and both Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson ran out to the farm building close by to see if the stock was all safe, when, as they were returning, they were struck down in the doorway by another flash of lightning. Mr. Wilkinson was killed instantaneously, while his wife and child were blinded and rendered insensible. The poor woman is dead, and the child is not expected to recover.

The woman that maketh a good pudding in silence is better than one that maketh a tart reply.

Literature.

DR. JACOB ON ECCLESIASTICAL
POLITY.*

This is one of the most healthy books we have read for a long time. Dr. Jacob is a sincerely attached member of the Church of England, a believer in national churches, as at least beneficial in some states of society and periods of national history, and an adherent of the Episcopal system of Church Government. Yet this book is written to point out that neither Episcopacy nor national churches existed in Apostolic times. This, however, of itself might not mean much; a thorough Conservative in Church matters might be a sufficiently candid scholar to see this. Dr. Jacob has prepared these lectures on Church History in order to point out to thoughtful Churchmen the need of practical reforms in the English Church, and the direction which such reforms should take.

"The object of these lectures is not to advocate the views or opinions of any Church party, or theological school, but to present to thoughtful men a view of the Christian religion in its original form; to mark some of the differences between Scripture truth and Church tradition, between the primitive state of Christianity as it came from the Apostles, and what it became in the hands of uninspired men; and from thence to point out some obvious suggestions for our consideration at the present time."

Dr. Jacob follows up the position taken by Archbishop Whately in his essays on the constitution of the Christian Church—he is equally severe with Isaac Taylor in his attack on the authority of the sub-Apostolic Church and the Church of the third century. Many a sensible Churchman will welcome the protest against sacramentalism and the priesthood contained in these lectures, uttered as it is with a clearness, thoroughness, and moderation, and sustained by a scholarship not always found among the Evangelicals. Dr. Jacob shows his wisdom in insisting on the discontinuance of words which, whatever may have been their origin and whatever may be the meaning scholars attach to them, convey erroneous impressions to common people.

"It is much to be lamented that good and learned men, while acknowledging that a Christian minister is not a sacrificing priest—a *idops*, or *sacerdos*—but an Elder, a *presbyteros*, or *presbyter*—should yet have countenanced the continued use of the word 'priest'; thus giving a handle to those who well know how to use it for evil."

He cites Hooker and Professor Lightfoot as examples of those whose influence is in favour of an error they have repudiated.

"He (Lightfoot) declares that the idea of a priesthood was brought into the Church at the end of the second century, by the influence of Paganism, and took its form from the Levitical law; that Christian ministers are not priests in the sense of offering sacrifices for sin, or making an atonement. Yet he asserts that they may be so called, 'if the word be taken in a wider and looser acceptation.' And this is quite enough for those who desire it, to cite him as an authority for asserting that the Christian presbyter is a 'priest,' and therefore that all priestly acts and functions may be predicated of him."

"It is in vain that Professor Lightfoot adds, 'Only in this case the meaning of the term should be clearly apprehended; and it might have been better, if the later Christian vocabulary had conformed to the silence of the Apostolic writers, so that the possibility of confusion would have been avoided.' This undecided protest is of no avail. As far as the Professor is concerned, the mischief is to go on, and his name is, and will be, used to support the very sacerdotalism against which he so forcibly declaims."

It is refreshing, when we hear Evangelical and Broad-Churchman giving themselves the proud name "priest," to meet with simple common sense like this. The same clearheadedness is manifest in his comparing the "ecclesiastical widows" of Apostolic times not with our modern "Sisters" or "Deaconesses," but with the undistinguished "District Visitors and Bible Women." "It is evident that in the 'apostolic and sub-apostolic age, Christian women performed these works of charity and mercy without forming themselves into sisterhoods, or making any vows, or wearing an unusual dress, or calling themselves by 'fantastic names, or in any way relinquishing their ordinary, simple, natural, and therefore most Christian position in the family circle and household life.'"

It is remarkable, however, that in one instance Dr. Jacob himself is led astray from his simplicity. "If, therefore, those who repent and believe in Jesus are declared in Scripture 'to be by their baptism baptized into Christ, to put on Christ, to be buried and raised up with Him, to wash away their sins, to have the washing of regeneration, to receive the Holy Spirit, and to be saved, there is surely a sound and Scriptural sense in which we may

* *The Ecclesiastical Polity of the New Testament; a Study for the Present Crisis in the Church of England.* By the Rev. G. A. JACOB, D.D., late Headmaster of Christ's Hospital. (London: Strahan and Co.)

"speak of 'Baptismal Regeneration,' and call 'baptism the Sacrament of the new Birth in Christ.' According to Dr. Jacob's showing, Baptists might so speak, but for anyone who accepts the practice of infant baptism to do so, would be to subject themselves to the charge he brings against Professor Lightfoot, of 'supporting the very 'sacramentalism' against which 'he so forcibly declaims.'"

Dr. Lightfoot affirms the right of the laity to judge and decide in matters of doctrine as well as of practical morals and ecclesiastical order; and declares that according to the New Testament, the possibility of ministers teaching false doctrine is foreseen, and then "it would necessarily be the duty of every Christian to refuse their teaching." And he interprets the conduct of the Apostles in calling in the "brethren" to join in the "Council of Jerusalem" as any Congregationalist might interpret it. It was "as an example to all future times":—

"In order that every Christian community in all ages might learn after the same similitude to decide in similar emergencies; and that we might see that, while the Scriptures are the only treasure-house of all Christian doctrine, the responsibility of embodying such doctrine, when necessary, in Church forms, or dogmatic articles of belief, rests with the members of the Church at large, and ought not to be by them declined, or from them taken away."

Dr. Jacob alludes to Mr. Lecky's assertion, substantially often made by many who profess their belief in Apostolic Christianity, that the superstitious sensuous form of Christianity was necessary for the earlier ages of European Christianity and for barbarous nations still. His answer is complete:—

"When Christianity has come in contact with a people in a state of barbarism, or low civilisation, if it has not raised them out of this state so far as to enable them to apprehend its divine doctrines, it has, of course, been debased by them and loaded with superstitions. And the more surely so, if the trustees of the religion themselves have departed from the purity and truth of the Christian faith. But in the first century it was indisputably shown that a Christianity, not debased by idolatry and superstition, could be established in companies of men of all classes throughout the Roman empire; and, therefore, there evidently was no intellectual or moral impossibility in the propagation of such a religion to any extent throughout the population. And if possible then, it was possible at any other time, if the same truths had been presented to men's hearts and minds."

"The earliest and the latest accounts of the Gospel distinctly show that the divine message of Christianity, when faithfully proclaimed, is able to cope, not only with a low state of civilisation, but with the barbarism of the negro, and the cannibalism of the New Zealander."

The practical conclusions of the volume are as healthy as its general tone. A thorough revision of the Prayer-book, to sweep out of it all that may still afford support to sacerdotal and sacramental theories, the abolition of sponsors, the introduction of free prayer into the service of the Churches, and the restoration of the laity to places of responsibility and influence, are among the reforms he urges. He would have the Church of England also draw nearer to the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland, to the orthodox bodies on the continent, but above all to the "bodies of Christian men in England itself, as sound in the faith as we are, and holding all or almost all of the articles of our Church, but unfortunately separated altogether from us into different sects and denominations." We heartily welcome Dr. Jacob's lectures, and join with him in the wish that the Established Episcopal Church in this land would retrace her steps towards a purer apostolicity. As to her doing so in fact, we have no more hope than Dr. Jacob appears to have.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.*

It is not easy to exhaust the significance of a character like that of Sir Walter Scott. His relations are so wide and so penetrating that on any side matter for an essay might readily be found. In spite, therefore, of the flood of centenary speeches, we are to venture on a few paragraphs further on the subject, led thereto by the little volumes named below.

Mr. F. T. Palgrave, in his exquisite biographical sketch prefixed to the "Globe" edition of Scott's poetical works, makes the incisive remark that Scott's temperament was about equally divided between a prosaic and a romantic element. He could carry out the most romantic ends in the most practical manner, and was not afraid of an innovation. He could as it were, take the new in his hand and use it, and yet never lose the illusion of the old. When George the Fourth visited Scotland the great novelist appeared in Highland costume.

* *Life of Sir Walter Scott.* By ROBERT CHAMBERS, LL.D., with *Abbotsford Notanda*, by ROBERT CURRIER, LL.D. (Chambers.)

The Life of Sir Walter Scott. By the Rev. G. R. GLEIG, M.A., Chaplain-General to the Forces. (Black,)

He who had done so much to render the grand Scottish scenery famous was the first who drove a gig into Lidderdale. Dr. Macleod, in his essay on Highland Scenery of Scotland, tells how one of the old-fashioned residents in the Perthshire highlands blamed Sir Walter Scott for having spoiled them. From his point of view of course he was not so very far wrong. The man who first drove a gig into Lidderdale and who at the same time wrote "Rob Roy," would hardly have objected to railway and pleasure-steamers carrying passengers conveniently near to his much-admired scenery. Nor would he have been any the worse pleased if he had had a good interest in the investments.

Scott could skilfully adapt means to ends; and could do it in such a patient, discreet, sagacious manner that there seemed to be no inconsistency. Abbotsford itself, the most earnest of Scott's enterprises, was a great compromise. It was to be feudal, romantic, and so forth; but a stream of half dilettante society was ever coming and going which made it almost as modern and artificial as one of the clubs in Piccadilly. Its feudalism was the merest ghost of a pretence; for Scott was essentially modern.

It is this mixture in Scott which makes him great; but at the same time it weakens the personal interests. He has no strong points about him, nor scarcely has he any weak ones; and both are needful either to make us admire a man with our whole minds, or to make us love him with our whole souls. The lack of such an all-pervading enthusiasm in this later centenary as stirred the people on the occasion of the Burns one, has been accounted for on the ground that Scott's life had not the close tragical interest of Burns', and that he could not so fully convey his own character into his fictions as Burns did into his poems. The real cause lies further back—in the essential compromise of Scott's character which Mr. Palgrave has brought out so clearly. If there is one thing Scott wants it is intensity. He joyed in the present, but he failed to discern the real tendencies which were even then working under the surface; and he contented himself with a cryptic Toryism which, however, the whole drift of his writings goes directly to discredit. And even in the past, he never loses himself, a turn, a touch, a hint, a suggestion, unmistakably proves the presence of the man of to-day, who is using old things for a distinctly present-day purpose. There is a robust, strong, contented, self-satisfied practicality, bound up with Scott's genius, which robs it of the fascination which men like Byron or Burns exercise, more on account of their personal qualities than of their genius, though their genius, so to speak, gave it universal significance, as their genius made it universally known.

But while Scott is thus modern by his habit and the practical turn of his mind, he is classical rather than modern in his utter unconsciousness. He enjoys life wherever he goes: he has none of the sentimental diseases; he does not care for popularity, though he cannot do without company. It is this healthful objective quality in his books which makes them stand out as the great landmarks of a new epoch. Just as the common sense philosophy was losing power and the new active, eager, questioning spirit was awakening, here was a man who, because of his utter detachment from purely spiritual tendencies, seemed to speak alike to all. High Churchmen, like Keble, found something to admire in the apparent reverence for what was romantic in Medievalism; Tories thought they there saw tributes paid to their heroes of the bygone; whilst the maddest reformers of to-day might base a good argument for equal political rights on the ground of the shrewdness, intelligence, and purity of his specimens of the lower orders. He was essentially a story-teller, and he succeeded better than he could possibly have done, had he tried consciously to interpret modern ideas. It was his power of standing apart from them, in fact, that made him the great literary force he was. But this power of standing apart is not of a kind that consists very well with popular hero-worship. Goethe's finest writings do not excite among his countrymen the enthusiasm that is felt over some of Körner's battle-songs. It is true that Scott did not shirk patriotic duty as did Goethe; he was a volunteer, ready to serve his country; but he did shirk facing the most earnest questions of his day. Not that he is to be blamed for this. He did right to remain true to his possibilities; but this to a great extent, justifies the idea that Scott is not likely ever to draw out the same intensely enthusiastic regard as is shown towards Burns.

The Scotch as a nation are at once shrewd and cautious and cool; and yet they are intensely ideal and self-doubtful. Hence the reserve covering intensity, which we find in them as we come to know them. If their enthusiasm

gets the upper hand, it runs away with them altogether. A Scotch enthusiast is about the worst sort of enthusiast possible. For when once the walls of reserve and self-doubtfulness are thrown down, there is no check or restriction whatsoever. But, generally, they show great self-repression and leave large spaces of possibility which have the effect of making them live far more in the future than Englishmen do. They adventure into all corners of the earth and bring the wilderness into order; but they never cease to hope to return to their native land, and delight their eyes and hearts by modelling their distant homes as far as possible on the old ones far away. They feel intensely, but allow themselves narrow verge of expression through which to exhibit it. Even to this side of the Scottish character, Scott himself has scarcely done full justice; and it is because he has not done full justice to it, where again Burns has, that the poet must be regarded as even more deeply though not more truly national than the novelist.

The following passage from Mr. Chambers's biography brings out a point which has been observed, and illustrates one of Scott's leading traits:—

"All around Abbotsford, and what gave it a great part of its value in his eyes, are the scenes commemorated in border history, and tradition, and song. The property itself comprises the spot on which the last feudal battle was fought in this part of the country. The abbey of Melrose and Dryburgh, the latter of which now contains the revered dust of the minstrel; the Eildon Hills, renowned in the annals of superstition; Selkirk, whose brave burghers won glory in the field where so much was lost by others, at Flodden; Ettrick Forest, with its lone and storied dales; and Yarrow, whose stream and 'dowie dens' are not to be surveyed without involuntary poetry—are all in the near neighbourhood of the spot. Scott was social and good-natured, to see him and his mansion was an object of ambition to half the public, including the highest persons in the land. He was thus led, during the seven months of the year which he spent in the country, to be the host of so many persons of every kind that his wife spoke of the house as being an hotel in all but the name. It is stated in Mr. Lockhart's biography that sixteen uninvited parties came in one day to Abbotsford."

Dr. Carruthers' Notanda are especially valuable as bringing out very finely the kindly nature of the man. When writing to Willie Laidlaw—his factor—about some grass-cutting in the plantations, he says:—"I have some fears 'of the scythe, and should prefer getting a host 'of women with their hooks, which would also 'be a good thing for the poor folks." When writing from his town-house amid a snowstorm, he does not forget to think of the poor birds, and sends a message to the housekeeper not to omit to throw out some crumbs for them. How touching is the following, and yet how truly it speaks for his friendliness; Willie Laidlaw is telling of the meeting with Scott when the novelist came home from Italy to die:—

"He was in a sort of long carriage that opened at the back. He had an uncommon stupid look, staring straight before him; and assuredly he did not know where he was. It was very dismal. I began to feel myself agitated in spite of all my resolution. Lockhart ordered away the ladies; and two servants in perfect silence lifted him out and carried him into the dining-room. I followed, of course. They had placed him in a low armchair, where he reclined. Mrs. Lockhart made a sign for me to step forward to see if he would recognise me. She said, 'Mr. Laidlaw, Papa.' He raised his eyes a little, and when he caught mine, he started, and exclaimed, 'Good God, Mr. Laidlaw! I have thought of you a thousand times,' and he held out his hand. They were all very much surprised; and it being quite unexpected, I was much affected."

Mr. Gleig's volume is likewise clear, interesting, and readable; and for those who cannot procure Lockhart's Life, or have not time to read such a work, it will give a good notion of Scott's character and the main events of his life.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Shirley Hall Asylum. By WILLIAM GILBERT, Author of "De Profundis," "Dr. Austin's Guests," &c., &c. New Edition. (Strahan and Co.) This was not Mr. Gilbert's first book exactly; for, if we mistake not, "Margaret Meadows," a very realistic piece of work, preceded it; and this "Margaret Meadows" would simply have stirred England to the very heart if it had only been well written, which it was not. It has been said that Mr. Gilbert gives the ore instead of the refined metal of social life; that may be meant for high praise, but it is certain that the figure points to truth at another side; it is the refined metal, and not the ore, that gets into circulation. But, however that may be, "Shirley Hall" was the first of Mr. Gilbert's efforts at illustrating insanity in fiction; and, as it was done with rare delicacy and reserve and humour, it got a public, though certainly not such a large public as it deserved to get. He personates a man who, having got insane through a presumed discovery as to increase of force by means of condensed air, as illustrated in the air-gun, fancies he has had placed in his hands such a tremendous power that he may be tempted even to oppose the fiat of the Almighty with success. His friends lodge him in a private lunatic asylum; and the

book is made up of the stories of his companions, which he learns during his stay there. The art of it consists in the harmlessness of the illusions for the most part—the patient just passing beyond the bounds of sense, and never actually losing sight of the real world. We are sometimes in doubt whether Mr. Gilbert does not mean the lesson of his romance to be more moral than psychological—whether under the form of mania, he is not quizzing common weaknesses, which consist with complete sanity—as for example the cynical tendency in one case, the excessive desire of being admired by women in another; or the pride of scientific knowledge in the professed teller of the stories himself. However that may be, the book, in spite of its subject, is sound and healthy, the humour occasionally very fine, while the unity of the whole is admirable. Mr. Gilbert has evidently revised the work with care.

Ninety-three; or, a Story of the French Revolution, from the Recollections of my French Tutor. By JOHN W. LYNDON. (Bell and Daldy.) How pregnant the Great French Revolution has been in fiction! There is something so striking and impressive in the march of that terrible monster which overthrew at one blow the old settled system of European King-craft. The scenes are so wild and unusual, the characters that figure in them are so picturesque in their dirt and rags and squalor, and now and then there are such relieving touches of tenderness and affection, that it is no wonder story-writers should have been fascinated by it. It is so easy to throw in a few imaginary characters,—a faithful curé, a pair of devoted lovers, and an extraordinary peasant or two, and to follow them through the terrible events of that bloody time; making the whole all the more striking through the inevitable contrasts that must arise. Mr. Lyndon has gone over some of the same ground as did Miss Tytler in her "Citoyenne Jacqueline," but he has been wise enough to put the story, in effect, into the mouth of a French teacher, so that verisimilitude is gained. The whole story is well-conceived and carefully written; but the domestic element is more subordinated than in the case of Miss Tytler's book. The dialogues are carefully managed, and the descriptive passages are chastely yet powerfully done. A reader who has not read any standard history of the French Revolution, will here get, in the pleasantest manner, a very good notion of it.

Loveland, and other Poems chiefly Concerning Love. By WADE ROBINSON. (Hodder and Stoughton.) Mr. Wade Robinson's muse sometimes flags a little in her higher or longer flights; but he has a genuine lyrical touch. Some of the shorter pieces are undoubtedly sweet, tender, and spring from a true feeling. In the hymn, too, that most difficult form of composition, he is singularly happy, so happy that we cannot resist the temptation to give this specimen.

"AT THE CROSS."

"Weary with my load of sin,
All diseased and faint within,
See me, Lord, thy grace entreat,
See me prostrate at Thy feet.
Here before Thy Cross I lie,
Here I live or here I die.

I have tried, and tried in vain,
Many ways to ease my pain;
Now all other hope is past,
Only this is left at last.
Here before Thy Cross I lie,
Here I live or here I die.

If I perish, be it here,
With the friend of sinners near;
Ah, it seemeth even sweet,
Thus to perish at His feet.
Here before Thy Cross I lie,
Here I live or here I die."

We have unmistakably here the note of simplicity and truth. Mr. Robinson should write more of such as this.

The Fortnightly Review. July and August, 1871. French affairs come in for three articles in these two numbers. Mr. Karl Blip treats of "The French Republic and the Suffrage Question." Dr. Sandwith, in an article on "Earl Russell, the Commune, and Christianity," compares the evils that have been wrought by "established Christianity" with those wrought by the infidels of the Commune. It is a painful article, but one that deserves to be studied by admirers of English Christian gentlemen. Mr. Frederic Harrison's papers on the Commune would be more valuable if they were not so arrogant and so one-sided. Mr. Justin McCarthy affords ample evidence of the failure of "Prohibitory Legislation in the United States"; and Miss Cobbe an excellent article on "Réville's Histoire du Diable." "Anne Furness" is completed,—a story hardly ever flagging in interest, but unnatural in its characters, who resemble Indian drawings in their distinctness and their stiffness. We must not overlook Professor Cairnes's able defence of Political Economy, and defence of it against the charge that it is but a doctrine of "laissez-faire." The echoes of an old controversy with the Positivists may be heard in this lecture.

Journal of Science. July, 1871. The articles in this number are mostly brief, and not of great scientific value; but they are interesting. A paper on the "Dawn of Light Printing" is an endeavour to make the public acquainted with the name and investigations of Nicéphore Niepce, one of the earliest to study photography. Mr. Pengelly answers the question, "Why 'don't you find the bones of the men as well as their 'implements,' in cavern deposits and river gravels?"

The Editor describes some experiments, in which he tested the pretensions of Mr. Home, the spiritualist, and affirms his belief that Mr. Home possesses in an unusual degree a force, not supernatural, but which may be called "psychic force." Mr. Ponton gives another article on "Molecules, Ultimates, Atoms, and Waves." An article on the "Science of Money" is not very scientific in its character; fancy rather than observation presiding over many of its generalisations. The *Journal* keeps up its reputation as a record of "Progress in Science."

The Last Days of Jerusalem: A Song of Sion. By S. W. FULLON, Author of "Rome Under Pius IX." &c., &c. (Hatchards.) Mr. Fullon has chosen a very ambitious theme, and one which would require very delicate and choice treatment. Epic poems, like that written recently by the Rev. E. Bickersteth, and purely descriptive poems, like the "Seasons," are not now greatly in demand; the lyric and the idyll, in which human emotion has prominent place, having taken almost exclusive possession of the field. But Mr. Fullon carries us over the ground with considerable skill, he is correct and careful, knows the value of rhyme as an expedient, and occasionally uses it happily, though in general, we do not think it an improvement in this style of poem; blank verse being more stately and at the same time more flexible and fuller of harmony, in the master's hand. But we have read Mr. Fullon's poem with pleasure; and have re-read some passages without its suffering diminution—no bad test.

The Poetical Works of Sir Thomas Wyatt. Aldine Edition. (Bell and Daldy.) Sir Thomas Wyatt, though a contemporary and friend of the gallant Earl of Surrey, and though he enjoyed, and still enjoys, a considerable reputation, was a quaint and careful writer rather than a great poet. He is full of conceits and the bye-plays of fancy. There is a lack of fire and inspiration about him; the lights are scattered and flitter about, rather than constellate and fix themselves in certain cluster. But there is always a gentle, mildly-diffused beauty in Wyatt's verses; and occasionally a very sane and sincere touch. Not many of his poems dwell long on the mind. They lack holding power. This, like all the rest of the series, is a very beautiful volume; and the life is elaborate and exhaustive, incorporating several new facts respecting the poet. We have not seen cheaper and more handsome works than this Aldine Series of the Poets.

CUTTINGS FROM OUR AMERICAN EXCHANGES.

The *Boston Congregationalist* gives a remarkable illustration of American enterprise. The gauge of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, extending from Cincinnati to St. Louis, a distance of 240 miles, was to be changed from six feet to four feet eight inches and a half. This involved of course the necessity of shifting one rail over the entire length of the road. The work was commenced at daylight. A force of 2,720 men were distributed along the line, divided into gangs. In each gang six went ahead to draw the spikes, six followed to move the rails to their new place, and the rest came after with hammers and spikes to fasten them down. At half-past eleven the telegraph announced that the whole work was completed. That is what can be accomplished by extended, united, systematic and simultaneous effort.

Woman has already found entrance into the colleges of Oberlin, Antioch, and the State Universities of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. The door is fairly open to her at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, where the boast is that they know neither sect nor sex. And Harvard, Amherst and Williams (says an American paper) are hearing her knocks, and pondering, whether or not she shall be admitted.

On Sunday afternoon, July 30th, there was a frightful explosion on board the Staten Island Ferry boat Westfield, as she lay at her dock in New York. Several hundred persons were on board, many of them excursionists bound down the harbour, and a large proportion women and children. Without a moment's warning, just as the time for sailing had arrived, the boiler burst with a terrific shock. The whole of the upper works of the boat were shattered, the deck was cleft in two from stem to stern, and the whole of the forepart of the hull laid open to the very keel. Upwards of twenty persons were killed instantly, and the total number of deaths is now stated to be not less than ninety-six. At least 120 were wounded, some of them badly. The dead were terribly scalded, and many were bruised and battered in a sickening way. The probable cause of the explosion was the breaking of the joints of a plate with which the boiler had been patched at the rear end. The boiler is shown to have been defective and worn-out, while opinions differ as to the competency of the engineer. Among the killed were Professor Marc Cheneviere of Brooklyn, and a number of children and infants, and Antonio Meacci, once a partner of Garibaldi in his candle factory on Staten Island, was very badly if not fatally injured.

In connection with this catastrophe, the *Boston Congregationalist* has some sensible remarks on the necessity of caution in the application of the doctrine of a special Providence:—

During the war, the life of a man was saved by the Testament in his side pocket, which intercepted the ball, and a good deal was made of this until the life of another man was saved in the same way by a pack of

cards, when the Providential character of the incident became less clear. Stories are sometimes told of the sudden death of individual occurring immediately after the utterance of blasphemies, or while engaged in the performance of wicked acts, and these are often regarded as significant of divine displeasure; but persons sometimes die suddenly "by the act of God," under very different circumstances. Here, for instance, is the story of a lady in St. Joseph, Mo., who, during a fearful storm, was reading the Bible to her two little children. The windows of the room having been burst open by the wind, she escaped into another room, and there, placing her children on the bed, knelt by their side in prayer. In this position the lightning struck her, killing her instantly. Such incidents should lead us to be careful how we ascribe the death of wicked men under startling circumstances to the special judgment of Providence.

A French-Canadian, Jacob Pournais by name, has just died at Kansas City, Mo., at the reputed age of 134. He said he was at work in the woods near Quebec when Wolfe was killed on the heights of Abraham, and was refused enlistment when General Jackson occupied New Orleans, "because he was too old."

Fifty years ago there was not a native Christian in the Friendly Islands. Now 30,000 people regularly attend public worship, and 15,000 dols. are yearly contributed to religious objects.

It is reported that only four per cent. of the people of California are in membership with evangelical churches. The Roman Catholics claim control of one-half the population.

The Christian Union gives the following items of missionary news:—

The Rev. Mr. Calhoun, of the American Presbyterian Mission in Syria, has lately given a most interesting account of a recent journey among all the Armenian churches in Northern Syria. It was constantly filled with evidences of hopeful change. Four of five years since, no European could have made the journey. Now, Mr. Calhoun, who has been scores of years in Syria, reports that he has never seen more attentive congregations of men and women, who are all now ministered to, not by the missionaries through whom the work was begun, but by native pastors trained up from among themselves, [and those native Armenian pastors are not inferior in godliness, education, and fitness for their office to any he has known. To a great extent those churches have become self-supporting, and, what is better, have contributed much in men and means to send the gospel to the regions around.]

In Labrador there are at present thirty-seven Moravian men and women missionaries. The number of persons under their care is something over one thousand, which is about one hundred less than the number ten years ago. The decrease is the consequence of disease. Heathenism has now entirely disappeared from the Labrador coast, and the natives, with a very few exceptions, are connected with the mission. A comparison with the condition of the scattered heathen who live in the extreme north and in the interior, demonstrates how much the mission has accomplished.

The announcement comes from Brazil that the prestige of Romanism in that country seems to be gone. The Government entertains kindly feelings toward Protestant missionaries, the people are eager for instruction, and the gospel is preached without opposition.

By having his wits about him and a plentiful supply of eggs, Mr. Joseph Hale succeeded in saving the life of his wife last week, in Portland, who, in a fit of abstraction, had swallowed a dose of corrosive sublimate, thinking it was laudanum. Given over by the frightened neighbours for dead, her husband administered to the terrified victim the whites of fifteen eggs, which completely neutralised the effects of the poison.

Miss M. E. Dyott, a young lady of eighteen years of age, is the editor and proprietor of the *New Rochelle Pioneer*, in Winchester county. It is stated that she is not only editor, but publisher, foreman, and compositor. She is assisted in composing by two boys, and her paper is published with regularity.

Thirty young Japanese noblemen, belonging to the most illustrious families in Japan, and under the leadership of Prince Schemidzo Jugad, have arrived in New York from San Francisco. They are sent to this country by the Government of Japan in order to complete their education, and especially with a view of examining mechanical inventions.

According to the *Buffalo Express* of the 29th ult. five persons have perished this summer by being swept over the Falls of Niagara, of whom two were carried over in a boat during the last week of July.

The Baptist Union gives the following particulars of large sums recently given in America for religious, educational, and philanthropic objects:—

A few years ago we all opened wide our eyes when the Congregationalists raised in a few weeks 100,000 dols. to aid weak churches to erect houses of worship. The Presbyterians followed with a like or larger sum. Then the Methodists came forward with a 3,000,000 dols. centenary fund. Then the Presbyterians ran considerably over their 5,000,000 dols. memorial fund. Now the Reformed (Dutch) propose to raise 1,000,000 dols. These sums are over and above the regular contributions to missions, &c. Individuals at the same time have been giving princely sums. We do not recollect the exact amount given by Vassar to found the Female College at Poughkeepsie, by Cornell to found Cornell University, and donations to Harvard and Colby, and Rochester, and several colleges and universities; but they amount in the aggregate to several millions. We recollect 300,000 dols. given by Crorer to found a school; 500,000 dols. by the Hon. Asa Packard to found a college, and he now offers 500,000 dols. more on easy conditions. John C. Green gives 117,000 dols. to Princeton; Orange Judd gives 100,000 dols. to the Wesleyan University; Samuel Williston gives 250,000 dols. to Williston Academy, and a similar sum to Amherst College; 500,000 dols. has been subscribed for Union Theological Seminary; Cyrus

Wakefield gives 100,000 dols. to Amherst, and so on in all directions, for all purposes, in large amounts, men are giving. The Lord be praised!

The *Toronto Daily Leader* has an interesting account of a missionary meeting held in that city, with an address from an Indian chief, named Little Pine, as its principal feature. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by the Hon. W. B. Robinson. Little Pine, attired in his native costume, consisting of a fur cap highly ornamented with feathers, a white blouse, flannel pants, black cloth gaiters, encircled with a garter of beads and moccasins. Two heavy silver medals were suspended from his neck, one bearing the impression of George the Third on the one side, and a coat of arms on the other; the other medal bore an impression of Queen Victoria, and was dated 1840, on the reverse side being the Royal coat of arms. His address was delivered in his native language, and was translated to the audience by the Rev. Mr. Wilson. In coming forward he said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen, how do you do? I am come to see you all, and am very glad to see you. No one has employed me to come, although a poor man, and as chief of my Indian people. I have come here on behalf of those people. I hope you are all Christians of the Queen's Church, and if you are, you will all do what is right.

He then gave a description of his boyhood, which greatly interested the audience. He went on to give a description of his first visit to his white brethren. He said:—

When I, in company with another, arrived in our canoe on the southern shore of Lake Superior, we had to walk all the way to Toronto, and here we met Sir John Colborne. Sir John said to my partner and to me that he was a Christian, and followed the same religion as they did in the old country, and advised us to follow the same. It is about forty years ago since we came here. I remember it quite well, a young man by the name of McMullary stood beside me, and with him I held a long conversation. I am perfectly satisfied with the way in which religion has been preached to my people. I ask you, is not your Queen a great lady? Is not your Government, and are not your laws great laws? Why does not your church increase in the same way as your power has increased? My friends and ladies, many years ago I was not as I am now, I was then in poverty, I hunted and got my living in the bush with my bow and arrows. You, too, my friends, your forefathers were once in the same condition and hunted as my people do. Now you have riches and great houses and works; see your railways. Why is the [Chippewa] not taught in the same ways of wisdom as you were? I have come before you to-night to ask you to give money to enable religion to be spread amongst my people. This is the thought that is now in my breast, and what has brought me here to-night. The English people are the great people. I have watched by white brethren since I was young, and also their ways, and I see how great they are; and now I turn to these great people and ask them why their religion and churches do not spread and go on as fast as their houses, which, as I look around me, I see are great. I could talk all night, but I think I have said enough, and so will now leave off.

There were several other speakers.

ALLEGED WHOLESALE POISONING.

A most extraordinary case is under investigation by the Brighton magistrates. According to the statements published, an attempt has been made to poison several persons by sending them presents of eatables. The chief constable of Brighton yesterday offered a reward of 20*l.* for the discovery of the sender of the parcels. Some of these were conveyed by post, and others by rail. On being opened they were found to contain cakes, sweetmeats, and fruits, and in some cases a cake was wrapped up separately, and specially addressed to the mistress of the house. In most cases the cakes were found to contain poison. The particulars of two cases are given, and are as follows:—"At about midday on Thursday last, the 10th of August, two white deal boxes, one being about fourteen inches long by twelve inches wide, and the other about ten inches square, were left at the Victoria Railway Station, addressed to different persons in Brighton, to whom they were delivered the same evening. The carriage of both boxes was prepaid, and when opened they were found to contain cakes, and in each box were a few cakes done up in a piece of paper separately from the others, and on one of these papers the following was written:—"A few home-made cakes for the children; those done up are flavoured on purpose for yourself to enjoy. You will guess who this is from; I can't mystify you, I fear. I hope this will arrive in time for you to-night, while the eatables are fresh." The other paper had writing on it to the like effect, but with the initials "G. M." attached. The cakes which were in the papers have since been found to contain poison. Suspicion having been fixed on a lady named Edwards, unmarried, about thirty-five years of age, she was arrested and brought before the borough magistrates charged with having attempted to poison Mrs. Emily Beard, the wife of Dr. Beard, a physician practising in Brighton. It was deposed that she was intimately acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. Beard, the former having attended her professionally. A coolness, however, arose, owing to the circumstance that the prisoner had some time since taken a number of chocolate drops to Mrs. Beard's house, one of which she placed in that lady's mouth, and the result was that it caused her to be very unwell. Dr. Beard had his suspicions at the time, but being unable to prove anything, he was compelled to let the matter rest. After this the accused continued to write frequent letters to Dr. Beard in such an affectionate

strain that he was compelled to ask her to desist. This was about three weeks ago, and shortly afterwards the mysterious parcels began to arrive. In one received by Mrs. Beard there was a cake. She very narrowly escaped being poisoned by it, two of the servants who ate a portion of it being made very ill. It was also stated to the magistrates that a few months ago, at the inquest on a little boy who had died from the effects of poison contained in some chocolate creams alleged to have been obtained in a large confectioner's in Brighton, the accused came forward as a witness and said that she had herself suffered from eating sweetmeats bought at the same establishment. She then wrote to Dr. Beard and sought to explain the supposed attempt to poison Mrs. Beard with a chocolate drop some months previously by the facts revealed at the inquest. At that time also several parcels of sweets were discovered in the town, distributed in a very mysterious manner. It should also be stated that recently a quantity of strychnine has been obtained from a chemist by a forged order purporting to come from another chemist, and that shortly afterwards the book in which the chemist registered the sale of poisons was obtained by an order to which the name of the borough coroner was forged and some leaves of the book were abstracted. The accused was remanded till Thursday next.

Miscellaneous.

THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE.—The committee of the Alexandra Orphanage for Infants, Hornsey-rose, have been favoured a second time with a donation of 1,000*l.* from their anonymous friend, "D. N.," which comes opportunely, as they are endeavouring to raise funds to pay the outstanding liabilities, amounting to the sum of 9,500*l.*

INFANT MORTALITY.—At an inquest held on Thursday, Dr. Lankester remarked that within the last three weeks 300 persons had died in London alone from diarrhoea, the majority being children. He believed this great loss of infant life arose from feeding with sour or turned milk, which brought on the complaint. He recommended, during the hot weather, the use of Swiss condensed milk, which, being the very essence of milk, would keep any length of time perfectly sweet.

SANITARY CONDITION OF LIVERPOOL.—Dr. Parkes and Sanderson, who were appointed to inquire into the sanitary condition of Liverpool, have made a frightful report. They say that not more than one-fifth of the population are living in circumstances which show any consideration for decency or health, and that none are in a worse condition than the dock labourers. Large masses of the populations of our large towns are in a worse condition than that of those we call barbarians. The commissioners attribute the evils in a very great degree to the prevalence of drinking habits, which the Home Secretary cannot find time to do anything to diminish.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.—It does not appear to be generally understood that the magnificent structure at Muswell Hill has been erected at a large outlay, to cover all modern improvements in public buildings. The views from the terraces and the interior of the building, resemble the sight from the Malvern or Surrey Hills, and are unequalled. The railway facilities which will soon be completed, will give to the northern and eastern inhabitants of this vast city and thousands of excursionists one of the finest and best recreation grounds in Europe. The public investors are covered by insurance of 20*s.* for every 21*s.*, so that no risk whatever is incurred, and the profits every year are cumulative in advantages.

THE AGINCOURT DISASTER.—The Lords of the Admiralty have decided that no further inquiry concerning the stranding of the Agincourt is necessary, all the material facts having been elicited at the court-martial. Their lordships consider that great negligence was shown by others besides those tried, and they therefore place on half-pay Vice-Admiral Wellesey, Captain Welles, and Staff-Commander Kiddle, who were on board the Minotaur flag-ship; and Rear-Admiral Wilmot and Captain Beamish, who were on board the Agincourt. Their lordships make no comment on the conduct of Staff-Commander Knight, but remark that the captains and navigating officers of the Warrior and Northumberland would have done well to warn the Agincourt of her danger.

THE PLEASURES OF TOURISTS.—Llandudno is overcrowded to a distressing extent; and, according to the correspondent of a London contemporary, hundreds of people are compelled to crouch in bathing-machines, railway-carriages, waiting-rooms, barber's shops, taprooms, and other eccentric places. "I have met several London and Liverpool men," he goes on to say, "wandering wildly about, each offering a sovereign for a shake-down, and it was not forthcoming. Two days ago, when the demand was not so great, I drove for an hour through the town in search of apartments or an hotel, and had to put up with a sort of cupboard overlooking an aromatic dustbin and the deadest of dead walls at an obscure inn, for which I pay 7*s.* a night, attendance extra."

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE PROSECUTIONS.—On Saturday the Acts to amend the law with respect to offences under the Act of Charles the Second, for the better observance of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, was issued. No prosecution or other

proceeding is now to be instituted against any person or the property of any person for any offence committed by him under the recited Act, or for the recovery of any forfeiture or penalty, except by or with "the consent in writing" of the chief officer of police of the police district in which the offence is committed, or with the consent in writing of two justices of the peace, or a stipendiary magistrate having jurisdiction in the place. The prosecution is not to be heard before the magistrate giving the consent.

STATUE TO SIR JAMES OUTRAM.—The ceremony of unveiling the statue erected to the memory of Lieut.-General Sir James Outram, G.C.B., took place on Tuesday afternoon on the Thames Embankment, in the presence of a number of ladies and gentlemen connected with Indian affairs. Among the spectators were Field-Marshal Pollock, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, Lady Havelock, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. H. Merivale. The statue, which is of bronze, and is twelve feet high, represents the general standing on the battlefield. When the veil was withdrawn, Lord Halifax delivered a short address, in which he said that the Secretary of State for India (the Duke of Argyll) was prevented from being present. He gave a sketch of the career of Outram, one of whose characteristics was his constant desire to protect the interests of the coloured race. It was by such men that India had been won and would be preserved. Throughout his long and brilliant career he never shrank from that which he believed to be his duty—(cheers)—and his qualities had won for him, as well as for Sir Charles Napier, the title of the "Bayard of India, without fear and without reproach." (Cheers.) Three cheers were then given, and the proceedings terminated.

WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—The following is extracted from a Parliamentary return:—In the counties of Cheshire and Lancaster the wages of men were 7s. to 15s.; women, 4s. to 9s.; children, 1s. 6d. to 6s. In the neighbourhood of Crewe, we are told, where the works of the London and North-Western Railway are carried on, the agricultural labourer derives advantage in earning higher wages—viz., 15s. per week. At Clitheroe, where the wages are only 7s., the same are paid throughout the year, and the engagement is for that time; this includes food and lodging; and at Garstang, we are informed, the farmers generally dine with their servants. In the great Ridings of Yorkshire the men earn from 12s. to 17s., women 5s. to 7s., and children 2s. 6d. to 6s.; while in the Northern Division, which includes the coalfields of Durham and the lakes of Cumberland, the wages of men are from 9s. to 18s., women 5s. to 7s. 6d., and children 3s. to 6s. At Darlington the agricultural labourer is principally performed by "hinds," to whom an allowance of wheat and potatoes is very often made; they also live rent free, and have their coals led free of charge. In the Welsh division the agricultural labourer receives from 10s. to 16s. 6d., women 4s. to 6d., and children 3s. to 6s.

THE APPROACHING TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE IN INDIA.—Mr. Huggins, the astronomer, states in the *Times* that owing to the prompt liberality of the Government in India, Colonel Tennant, R.E., F.R.S., has had placed in his hands sufficient funds for instruments and for covering all the charges of an expedition to the South of India for observations of the total eclipse of the sun on the 11th of December. Through Lord Mayo's kind personal interference, Colonel Tennant, who had just been appointed to the charge of Her Majesty's Mint at Calcutta (in the absence of the Master), has received permission to superintend the expedition in person. He will be assisted in observations with the spectroscope by Captain Herschel, R.E., F.R.S. The photography will be undertaken by Mr. Hennessey, of the Great Trigonometrical Survey. In addition to these gentlemen, Colonel Tennant has the promise from Major Montgomerie (acting for Colonel Walker) of two trained assistants. The observations will be made at the old meteorological station of Dodabetta, lat. 11 deg. 25 min. 5 sec. N., long. 76 deg. 43 min. 2 sec. E., which is one of the highest peaks of the Neilgherries, 8,650 feet above the sea. These complete arrangements justify, in Mr. Huggins' opinion, the most sanguine expectations as to the great value of the new information we shall gain from this expedition.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.—The special questions for discussion at the Leeds Congress of the Social Science Association, to commence on the 4th of October, under the presidency of Sir John Pakington, Bart., M.P., have been finally arranged by the general and local committees of the several departments as under:—Jurisprudence (W. Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., M.P., President):—1. What steps ought to be taken to establish a better system of legal education? 2. What is the best constitution of local courts, and what should be their jurisdiction? 3. What alterations are expedient in the laws relating to the devolution and transfer of land? Repression of Crime section (Lord Teignmouth, Chairman):—1. How far ought the cellular system of imprisonment to be adopted? and how far does it necessarily interfere with productive labour? 2. By what principles ought the amount of punishment, other than capital, to be regulated? 3. By what measures may the trading in stolen property, whether by purchasing it or receiving it in pledge, be most effectually prevented? Education (Mr. Edwd. Baines, M.P., President):—1. What are the special requirements for the improvement of the education of girls? 2. How may the education of neglected children be best provided for? The question to be considered under the divisions—(a)

Industrial schools and their relation to the school boards; (b) In what form, if any, may compulsion be best applied? 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of large as compared with small schools? Health (Mr. George Goodwin, F.R.S., President):—1. What are the best and most economical methods of removing and utilising the sewage of large towns? 2. What are the best means of securing the sanitary improvement of human habitations? 3. What are the best means of promoting the health of operatives in factories and workshops? Economy and Trade (Mr. William Newmarch, F.R.S., President):—1. What amendments are needed in the existing laws for the licensing of houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors? 2. What principles ought to regulate the assessment and administration of local taxation? 3. Is it desirable that the State or municipality should assist in providing improved dwellings for the lower classes? and, if so, to what extent, and in what way? These questions will be taken one on each day, and two days will be set apart for the reading and discussion of voluntary papers on other subjects within the range of the departments not specified above.

SCHOOL BOARDS ESTABLISHED.—On the 1st of August there were 269 school boards in England and Wales. That represents just one year's work. Ninety-six of these boards are formed in municipal boroughs, at the instances of town councils; one exceptional case is that of the metropolis, and 172 boards have been elected in parishes on the application of a majority of ratepayers. In the county of Yorkshire alone there are no fewer than thirty-two school boards, twelve of which are in boroughs. Next to Yorkshire stands Devon, with fourteen boards, whereof eight are in boroughs. After that comes Staffordshire, with twelve boards; but this is matched in Wales, in county Carnarvon, where ten out of the twelve are in mere parishes having no municipal or corporate existence. There are five counties with eleven school boards; they are, Cornwall, Lancashire, Anglesea, Denbigh, and Glamorgan. Pembrokeshire has ten boards; Durham, Nottingham, and Carmarthen, nine; Brecon and Cardigan, seven; Kent, Merioneth, and Montgomery, six; Derby, Monmouth, Norfolk, and Somerset, five; Chester, Hants, Northampton, Suffolk, and Sussex, four; Cumberland, Essex, Northumberland, Worcester, and Radnor, three; Bucks, Lincoln, Surrey, Warwick, and Wilts, two; Beds, Berks, Cambridge, Gloucester, Herts, Leicester, Middlesex, Oxford, Westmoreland, and Flint, one. In England there are five counties in which no school board have been elected; they are Dorset, Hereford, Hunts, Rutland, and Shropshire. An order has gone forth from the Education Department for the election within the next few days of twenty-four more school boards, whereof one is to take place at Almeley, in the county of Hereford, which will reduce the counties without boards to four. In Wales there is not a county without one or more school boards. It is somewhat noteworthy that not only in Wales, in the midst of the old English Celtic population, has the desire for education, under the provisions of the Act, been very strongly marked, but a very similar feeling has been manifested in Cornwall, where, there is good reason to believe, are to be found a greater number of the original inhabitants of Ancient Britain than anywhere else out of the Welsh counties. The fact appears to be found highly creditable to the character of the English Celts. It is by no means the only instance which might be quoted tending to prove that the old Celtic races, when emancipated by the force of circumstances from mediæval superstition, are adapted to an advanced place in the march of progress. As a case in point, it may be remarked that the Scotch are the best example in Europe of an educated people in the absence of a law of compulsion.—*School Board Chronicle.*

Gleanings.

A baby who kisses his mother and fights his father may be said to be partial to his ma and martial to his pa.

An experienced dark nurse says: "It isn't much trouble to take care o' sick pussens; most on 'em don't want anything, and if they do, they don't get it."

"Some people," writes O. W. Holmes, "look upon Truth as an invalid, who can only take the air in a close carriage, with a gentleman in a black coat on the box."

A young candidate for the legal profession was asked what he should do first when employed to bring an action. "Ask for money on account."—He passed.

To remove medicine stains from silver spoons, rub them with a rag dipped in sulphuric acid, and wash with soap suds.

A man who married a buxom Irish girl in America, greatly to the horror of his mother and sister, made the following defence: "If I married an American girl I must have an Irish girl to take care of her, and I cannot afford to support both of them."

Adelina Patti recently sang, "Home, Sweet Home," at an American hotel, with so much effect that the next day the hotel was empty. [Puzzled readers will thank us for explaining to them that the visitors went "home."]

Those who have no ice, can cool water as is done in India. Surround the pitcher or jar containing it

with one or more folds of coarse cotton, and keep these constantly wet. The evaporation of the water outside will carry off the heat. In this way the water inside may be frozen.

At one of Peter Cartwright's camp meetings he was much annoyed by a noisy sister, who "took part" more frequently than was acceptable. He had called on all to kneel while some one should lead in prayer. She struck off at once with much feeling and power. Cartwright, not recognising her voice, shouted out, "Amen!" A brother kneeling close by whispered: "It's Ann Jordan praying." Cartwright, looking round, and seeing that it was so, cried out, "I take that amen back!"

A PAT REPLY.—Lord J. Russell endeavoured to persuade Lord Langdale to resign the permanent Mastership of the Rolls for the uncertain position of Lord Chancellor, and paid the learned lord very high compliments on his talent and acquirements. "It is useless talking, my lord," said Langdale. "So long as I enjoy the Rolls, I care nothing for your butter."

JUST HIS TRADE.—The Rev. George More was riding to the village of Howgate, in the vicinity of the city. The day was stormy, snow falling heavily. Mr. More was enveloped in a Spanish cloak, with a woman's shawl tied around his neck and shoulders. These loose garments, covered with show and waving in the blast, startled the horse of a commercial traveller who chanced to ride past. The alarmed steed plunged, and menaced to throw its rider, who exclaimed: "You would frighten the devil, sir!" "May be," said Mr. More, "for it's just my trade."—*Christian Union.*

PRINCE BISMARCK'S WIT.—The following *mot* is making the rounds of the German papers:—When, at the peace preliminaries, the sum of milliards—which now seems to sit so lightly on France—was mentioned, Jules Favre, not exactly bursting into tears, as before, yet appeared utterly speechless with horror. When he had recovered from his paroxysm, all he could say was that "even if one were to count from the time of Christ till now, one could not manage to count such an enormous sum." Upon which Bismark replied with a smile, "Don't let that distress you. I have thought of that, and therefore brought this gentleman"—pointing to Bleichröder, the Jewish banker—"with me. He counts from the creation of the world."

ADMINISTERING OATHS.—There is a story told of a former Clerk of the Peace of a certain West of England county. He had served the post for a great number of years with so good a constitution that he was never absent from quarter sessions until he had attained a very great age, when, being one day unable to attend, the Clerk of the Crown had to fill the post. Upon that occasion a new batch of magistrates had to be sworn in. The Clerk of the Crown took up the venerable-looking volume upon which the new justices were to be sworn, and seemed to look rather suspiciously at it, as if there was just a possibility that under the closely-tied red tape any other work but the New Testament could be comprised. He cut the tape with his knife, opened the book, and found he had instead the "Ready Reckoner," which had been used in all the business of the sessions for forty years. He whispered his discovery to the Lord Lieutenant, so the story goes, and his lordship said, "Keep it a dead secret get a Testament, and say nothing about it; for otherwise the public may be calling in question every decision come to for all these years in which an oath has been taken upon the book." In a police-court in the North of England one day, a few years ago, all the witnesses were by inadvertence sworn on a copy of Byron's poems.

A SUICIDE IN CHINA.—In his "Curiosities of Street Literature in China," Mr. Medhurst gives some curious particulars about visiting cards, and says that the most extraordinary one he ever received from a Chinese was that of a lady giving him notice that she intended committing suicide at a specified date. She was young, attractive, and wealthy. Unfortunately her betrothed died just before the nuptials, and she gave out that she deemed it her duty not merely to regard herself as perpetually widowed (a sacrifice considered as highly meritorious in China), but to die with her affianced husband; she therefore sent cards round to all her friends, intimating the intention alluded to. No attempt was made by her relatives or by the local authorities to frustrate her design; the general opinion, on the contrary, being that she was about to perform a most praiseworthy act. On appealing to the mandarins, they assured Mr. Medhurst that in deference to popular prejudice, they must abstain from interference. Eventually, on the day indicated, she did deliberately sacrifice her life in the presence of thousands. A stage was erected in the open fields, with a frame over it, from which was suspended a strip of scarlet crape. One end of this she adjusted over her neck, she let fall a veil of similar material over her face, and, mounting a chair, jumped off it, her little hands "chin-chinning" the assemblage, as her fast falling frame twirled round with the tightening cord.

WHY A CLERGYMAN DYED HIS HAIR.—A clergyman in Massachusetts, who has seen his two score and ten, was complimented on his hale and youthful looks the other day. Smiling, he touched his handsome brown hair, and replied, "You know they have a way of helping old men a little these days." "What!" said his friend, "have you been colouring your hair?" "Yes," replied he; "I

have been doing what I once thought nothing would induce me to do. I have been turning my gray hair brown, and I will tell you how I was brought to it. After leaving my position as —, I proposed to go back into the ministry and become a parish minister. Accordingly, as I had opportunity, I preached to some few destitute churches, and was gratified to hear at the conclusion of my services that the people were well pleased with my preaching, and but for my gray hair would gladly have me for a pastor; but they could not think of so old a man. Well, while I was going on through this experience, an old friend suggested to me to colour my hair, and thus remove from the eyes of the people the reproach of being an old man. And I consented, finally, to make this experiment. And what do you think? The very first time that I preached with brown hair upon my head, I was greeted with a call to settle in the ministry, and have ever since been the happy pastor of a united and apparently perfectly satisfied people." So much for the colour of one's hair—so much in proof that looks are something, after all, notwithstanding the old proverb that looks are nothing and behaviour is all.

AN IRREVERENT STUDENT.—We have a very good story of the Hon. Benjamin F. Butler that has not yet found its way into the newspapers. When a student in college it was binding on the students to attend the college church—a duty which to him was very irksome. On one occasion he heard the preacher (who was also a professor) advancing propositions like the following:—(1.) That the elect alone would be saved. (2.) That among those who, by the world, were called Christians, probably not more than one in a hundred belonged really and truly to the elect. (3.) That the others, by reason of their Christian privileges, would suffer more hereafter than the heathen who had never heard the Gospel at all. Mr. Butler, whose audacity was as conspicuous as his reverence, made a note of these propositions, and on the strength of them drew up a petition to the faculty, soliciting exemption from further attendance at the church, as only preparing for himself a more terrible future. For, said he, the congregation here amounts to 600 persons, and nine of these are professors. Now, if only one in a hundred is to be saved, it follows that three even of the faculty must be damned. He (Benjamin F. Butler), being a mere student, could not expect to be saved in preference to a professor. Far, he said, be it from him to cherish so presumptuous a hope! Nothing remained for him, therefore, but perdition. In this melancholy posture of affairs he was naturally anxious to abstain from anything that might aggravate his future punishment; and, as church attendance had been shown in last Sunday's sermon to have this influence on the non-elect, he trusted that the faculty would for all time coming exempt him from it! The result of this petition, written out in an imposing manner, and formally presented to the faculty, was that Butler received a public reprimand for irreverence, and, but for the influence of one or two friends in the faculty, would have been expelled.—"Editor's Drawer," in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

LANKESTER—August 17, at 136, High-street, Southampton, the wife of Mr. William Goddard Lankester, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

SADDINGTON—BROOK—August 15, at Arundel-square Chapel, Barnsbury, by the Rev. Theophilus Lessey, Alfred, third son of Mr. Samuel Saddington, of Arundel-square, to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. Leonard Brook, of Percy Circus, W.C.

BRAY—HARTLAND—August 15, at the Highbury Congregational Church, Bristol, by the Rev. E. J. Hartland, the Rev. J. Bray, minister of Cavendish Church, Manchester, to Florence Blanche, daughter of the above Rev. E. J. Hartland.

TARRING—BROWN—August 16, at Trinity Church, Huntingdon, by the Rev. J. H. Millard, assisted by the Rev. S. Lloyd, Frederick William, youngest son of John Tarring, Esq., of London, to Eliza, only child of Bateman Brown, Esq., of Huntingdon.

DAVIES—JAY—August 17, at St. James's, Piccadilly, by the Rev. Charles Cuthbert Southey, M.A., Vicar of Episcopi, Somerset, and the Rev. Horace Roberts, D.D., Charles Duboure, eldest son of the late Thomas Davies, Esq., of Blackheath, to Ada Wylie, second daughter of Capt. Jay, 33, Cavendish-square.

DEATH.

WAUGH—August 17, at 5, Woodland Villas, Blackheath, Harold, fourth child of the Rev. Benjamin Waugh, aged three weeks.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Liver Complaints and Disorders of the Bowels.—It is impossible to exaggerate the extraordinary virtue of this medicine in the treatment of all affections of the liver, or irregularities of the bowels. In cases of depraved or superabundant bile, these Pills, taken freely, have never been known to fail. In bowel complaints they are equally efficacious, but they should be taken rather more sparingly; for every medicine in the form of an aperient requires caution when the bowels are disordered, though a more gentle or more genial aperient than these Pills in moderate doses has never yet been discovered. If taken according to the printed instructions, they not only cure the complaint, but improve the whole system.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Aug. 16.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£39,654,615	Government Debt. £11,015,100
		Other Securities .. 3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion 24,654,615
		Silver Bullion
	£39,654,615	£39,654,615

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietor's Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity)	£14,268,368
Rest	3,393,370	Other Securities ..	16,898,298
Public Deposits ..	4,686,230	Notes	14,555,375
Other Deposits ..	23,187,143	Gold & Silver Coin ..	683,394
Seven Day and other Bills	594,192		
	£46,405,435		£46,405,435

Aug. 17, 1871. FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BREAKFAST.—EPPE'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Eppe has provided our breakfast-tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"James Eppe & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Eppe's Cacaoine, a very thin beverage for evening use.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Aug. 21.

We had a small supply of English wheat this morning, but from abroad we have liberal arrivals. The weather being settled, a firmer tone prevailed, and we have had besides some inquiry for France for white wheats. The small quantity of English wheat on sale was cleared off at the full prices of Monday last; and of foreign wheat, American and fine Russian qualities have improved in value 1s. per qr. during the week. Flour was in moderate request at fully previous prices. Peas and beans and Indian corn were unaltered in value. Barley was in moderate supply, and supported former prices. In oats a fair extent of business was done, at the quotations of this day week. At the ports of call fresh arrivals of cargoes are reported. Prices remain without change.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	PEAS—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent,	s. d.	s. d.	Grey	37 to 40	
red	— to —		Maple	43 46	
Ditto new ..	51 to 56		White	38 42	
White	—		Boilers	38 42	
" new ..	56 60		Foreign	37 40	
Foreign red ..	52 54				
" white ..	57 59				
			RYE	36 38	
BARLEY—					
English malting	31 34		OATS—		
Chevalier ..	36 42		English Feed ..	23 26	
Distilling ..	35 39		" potato ..	27 32	
Foreign ..	33 37		Scotch feed ..	—	
			" potato ..	—	
MALT—			Irish Black ..	19 21	
Pale	—		" White ..	21 24	
Chevalier ..	—		Foreign feed ..	16 20	
Brown	49 54				
			FLOUR—		
BEANS—			Town made ..	47 50	
Ticks	37 38		Best country ..	39 42	
Harrow	39 43		households ..	39 42	
Small	—		Norfolk & Suffolk	37 38	
Egyptian ..	32 33				

BREAD, Saturday, Aug. 19.—The prices in the Metropolitan are, for Wheat Bread, per 4 lbs. loaf, 7d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Aug. 21.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 17,244 head. In the corresponding week in 1870 we received 11,490; in 1869, 12,570; in 1868, 7,958; and in 1867, 8,163 head. There has been a larger supply of English stock on sale here to-day, and the arrivals from abroad have been very liberal. Less firmness has been noticed in the cattle trade. The best breeds have made from 5s. 2d. to 5s. 6d. per 8lbs. From our own grazing districts the receipts have been on a fair average scale. Only 3 head have come to hand from Aberdeen, and they have been disposed of at 6s. per 8lbs. The best shorthorns have made 5s. 8d. to 5s. 10d. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,600 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England, 300 various breeds; from Scotland, 3 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, about 200 oxen. There has been a good supply of sheep in the pens, including a large number of foreign. The trade was quiet on the whole. The best Downs were disposed of at 6s. 6d., 6s. 8d., and 6s. 10d. per 8lbs. Lambs have sold quietly at from 6s. 6d. to 8s. per 8lbs. Large supplies of calves have been on sale. With a slow trade, prices have had a drooping tendency. Pigs met a slow sale on former terms.

Per 8lbs., to sink the offal.

Inf. coarse beasts	s. d. s. d.	Pr. coarse woolled	s. d. s. d.
Second quality	5 2 5 6	Prime Southdown	6 8 6 10
Prime large oxen	5 6 5 8	Lge. coarse calves	3 8 4 6
Prime Scots	5 10 6 0	Prime small	5 0 5 8
Coarse inf. sheep	4 4 4 10	Large hogs	3 6 4 0
Second quality	4 10 5 8	Neat sm. porkers	4 0 4 8
		Lamb, 6s. 6d. to 8s. 0d., and Quarter old store pigs, 20s. to 25s. each.	

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Aug. 21.—Limited supplies of meat have been on sale. The trade has been dull at our quotations.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

Inferior beef	s. d. s. d.	Middling do.	s. d. s. d.
	3 6 to 4 4	Prime do.	5 0 to 5 8
Middling do.	4 6 4 10	Large pork	3 4 4 4
Prime large do.	4 8 5 2	Small do.	4 6 5 0
Prime small do.	5 2 5 4	Lamb	6 4 7 0
Veal	4 8 5 4		
Inferior Mutton	4 0 4 8		

PROVISIONS, Monday, Aug. 21.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,309 firkins butter and 2,586 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 20,525 packages butter, and 1,097 bales bacon. The sale for Irish butter has been rather quiet the past week, owing to the extreme heat of the weather. A few Clonmels sold at 117s. on board. Corks were a little easier in prices, and firsts sold at 122s., seconds 116s., thirds 107s. Foreign butter has sold slowly at the decline, all qualities being more or less affected by the weather. Best Dutch 114s. to 116s. The bacon market continues steady, without alteration in prices, except for Limerick and Cork, which declined 1s. to 2s.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Friday, Aug. 18.—We have again to report a falling off in the supply of home-grown fruit, but the importations have been heavy, and are now meeting with a very steady demand. Strawberries are over. The potatoe trade is quieter, and prices have slightly improved. The principal flowers in the market now are lilies, pelargoniums, asters, calceolarias, balsams, mignonette, dahlias, &c.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, Aug. 21.—Our market has been quiet, but notwithstanding the limited business passing prices are well maintained; fine samples in particular are firmly held and difficult to meet with. The fine weather followed by the recent rains have had a beneficial effect upon the plantations, and favoured grounds have made considerable progress, while others present only a slightly improved appearance; many plantations, however, in the Weald and Middle Kent, have been severely injured by attacks of mould and red spider, the former having been more general than the latter. The continental prospects are very similar to our own in Bavaria and Bohemia; in the few favoured districts with genial weather a fair yield may be the result, but the plantations generally are very bad, and under the best circumstances cannot do but more than one-fourth of a crop. Mid and East Kents, 3l., 4l. 4s., to 7l. 7s.; Weald of Kent, 3l., 4l., to 5l. 5s.; Sussex, 3l., 3l. 10s., to 5l.; Farnham and country, 4l. 10s. 5l. 5s., to 6l. 10s.; Olds, 1l., 1l. 5s., to 1l. 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Aug. 21.—These markets have been scantily supplied with potatoes. The demand has been only to a moderate extent, at the annexed quotations:—Regents, 60s. to 80s. per ton; Kidneys, 80s. to 110s. per ton; Shaws, 40s. to 60s. per ton. The import into London last week was confined to 45 tons from Jersey.

SEED, Monday, Aug. 21.—We have little passing in cloverseed at present, few samples of English appearing. American samples were held at very full prices. White seed was quite as dear. Choice old trefoil was held for full rates, the quality of new samples not being good. English rape-seed supported former rates, with a steady demand. Old white mustardseed was unaltered in price. Trifolium was again lower, prices ranged from 25s. to 30s. per cwt., according to quality. Canaryseed was held for more money. New winter tares could be bought at 8s. per bushel.

WOOL, Monday, Aug. 21.—The wool market has continued firm. Less business has been passing, owing to the high prices demanded.

OIL, Monday, Aug. 21.—Lined oil has met a fair demand, at full quotations. Rape has been steady. For other oils there has not been much demand.

TALLOW, Monday, Aug. 21.—The market is steady. Y.C., spot, 44s. per cwt. Town tallow, 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Aug. 21.—Market heavy, at last day's rates. Hartlepool (original) 18s. 6d.; Hartlepool East, 17s. 3d.; Kelloe South, 17s.; Eden Main, 16s. 6d.; Holywell Main, 18s.; Hartley's, 18s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 19; ships left from last day, 4. Ships at sea, 20.

Advertisements.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—The Eighteenth Annual Report is now ready, and may be had Free. Additional Funds will be gladly received at the Bankers, Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall Mall East, and at the Office, 11, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

ARTHUR KINNAIRD, Treasurer.
JOHN MACGREGOR, Hon. Sec.
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SCHOLASTIC.—WANTED, by an Oxford graduate of London, 1st Division and A.A. of Oxford, accustomed to Tuition in a large School, a FRESH ENGAGEMENT as JUNIOR MASTER.—Address, J. W. Buck, Stoke Hall, Ipswich.

A GRADUATE of LONDON Receives a few Private PUPILS. The Education is high class, and adapted to the special requirements of the day. Terms moderate.—For prospectuses apply, S. Borton Brown, B.A., Romsey, Hampshire. References, F. W. Gotch, LL.D., Bristol; J. Russell Reynolds, M.D., 38, Grosvenor-street, W.; Alex. McLaren, B.A., Manchester.

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FARMHOUSE or Country Apartments REQUIRED, within forty or fifty miles of London, for two or three weeks, by a small family (healthy). Two bedrooms and one sitting-room. Terms must be moderate.—Address, H. N. M., "Nonconformist" Office, 18, Bouverie-street, E.C.

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Upper, Middle, and Preparatory Departments. Classics, Mathematics, Modern Languages, and thorough English. Kinder-Garten and Pestalozzian Classes for Little Boys. The comfort and health of delicate boys especially studied. A liberal table and watchful care. Head Master—Rev. W. WOODING, B.A. For Prospectus apply to Mrs. Duff, Highbury House, St. Leonard's.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

SESSION 1871-72.
The SESSION of the FACULTY of MEDICINE will COMMENCE on MONDAY, October 2. Introductory Lecture at 3 p.m.

The Session of the Faculty of Arts and Laws (including the Department of the Fine Arts) will begin on Tuesday, October 3. Introductory Lecture at 3 p.m., by Professor Robinson Ellis, M.A. Inaugural Lecture for the Department of Fine Arts, on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 3 p.m., by Professor E. J. Poynter, A.R.A.

The Session of the Faculty of Science (including the Department of the Applied Sciences) will begin on Tuesday, October 3.

The Evening Classes for Classics, Modern Languages, Mathematics, the Natural Sciences, Shorthand, &c., will commence on Monday, October 9.

The School for Boys between the ages of seven and sixteen will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Prospectuses of the various departments of the College, containing full information respecting classes, fees, days and hours of attendance, &c., and copies of the regulations relating to the entrance and other exhibitions, scholarships, and prizes open to competition by students of the several Faculties, may be obtained at the office of the College.

The Examination for the Medical Entrance Examinations, and also that for the Andrews Entrance Prizes (Faculties of Arts and Laws, and of Science), will be held at the College on the 28th and 29th of September.

The College is close to the Gower-street Station of the Metropolitan Railway, and only a few minutes' walk from the termini of the North-Western, Midland, and Great Northern Railways.

JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.
August, 1871.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE MIDDLE-CLASS PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPANY (Limited).

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VICE-CHAIRMAN—MR. SAMUEL WHITBREAD, M.P.

HEAD MASTERSHIP.—In consequence of the lamented death of the Rev. William Groome, M.A., the late head Master, the Directors REQUIRE a HEAD MASTER for the School.

The School is situated in the parish of Kempston, adjoining the town of Bedford.

The School is fitted for 300 Boarders, and is quite full. Candidates to communicate with the Secretary, and furnish copies of their Testimonials on or before the 16th September next.

Candidates not more than 40 years of age will be preferred. Salary, £400 per annum, and a capitation fee of £1 for every boy over the number of 150. Residence free of rent, rates, and taxes.

THOS. W. TURNLEY, Secretary.
Bedford, August 12, 1871.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX.

HEAD MASTER—

RICHARD F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit. and M.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Lond.; Member of the Council of the Philological Society, &c., &c.

SECOND MASTER—

H. TAYLOR, Esq., M.A., Queen's Coll., Oxford; Double First in Moderations, and 2nd Class in the Final Classical School; also M.A. and late Scholar of Trin. Coll. Camb., 14th in 1st Class in Classical Tripos, and 1st Chancellor's Medalist, 1868.

ASSISTANT MASTERS—

A. H. SCOTT WHITE, Esq., B.A., Prisoner in Anglo-Saxon and Early English of Univ. Coll., London.

JAMES A. H. MURRAY, Esq., F.E.S., Member of the Council of the Philological Society, one of the Editors of the Publications of the Early English Text Society, Author of "The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland," &c., &c.

JAMES NETTLESHIP, Esq., B.A., Scholar and Prisoner of Christ's Coll., Camb.; 2nd Class Classical Tripos, 1866. For Prospectuses and further information apply to the Head Master, at the School, or to the Secretary, the Rev. R. H. MARTEN, B.A., Lee, S.E.

The MICHAELMAS TERM will commence on THURSDAY, the 14th September.

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM.

PROFESSORS.

English Literature . . . Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR.

Botany . . . Prof. BENTLEY, King's Coll.

Globes and Natural Science. Messrs. TAYLOR & WILLIAMS.

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French Language & Literature . . . Dr. MANDROU.

German Language . . . HERR GERNER.

References—Parents of Pupils and Clergymen.

For Particulars, address the Principals, Mrs. TODD and Rev. Dr. TODD.

EDUCATION.—PALMER HOUSE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.

Situated midway between the Highbury Station of the North London and Holloway Station of the Great Northern Railways.

The SCHOOL will REOPEN on MONDAY, the 4th Sept.

Principal—Mr. P. STEWART.

36, HILLDROP - ROAD, LONDON, N.

LADIES' SCHOOL, conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by superior English and Foreign Masters.

The PUPILS will REASSEMBLE on MONDAY, September 18th.

References and terms will be forwarded on application.

ELMS HALL, MITCHAM, S.

nine Miles from London.

Principal—Rev. W. J. WILSON, M.C.P.

House and grounds spacious, locality very healthy. Former Pupils gained scholarships and degrees. One, on being called to the bar, was awarded first honours and 150 guineas by the Council of Legal Education. Most of the Pupils attend chapel. Terms moderate. Prospectus, with view of premises, by post. A Pupil Teacher wanted at half-terms.

MRS. BAYNES and her Sisters, the Misses BEARD, late of Denmark Hill, are now residing in a larger House in the favourite suburb of Hampstead.

PUPILS REASSEMBLE on SEPTEMBER 7TH.
MOUNT VIEW, GREEN HILL, HAMPSTEAD.

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The Misses Howard aim to secure for their Pupils a sound literary and intellectual culture, together with refined manners, and a healthy Christian and moral training.

Prospectus, with references and copies of Examination Papers, on application.

AUTUMN TERM will COMMENCE THURSDAY, Sept. 21.

PELICAN HOUSE, PECKHAM.

Miss DIXIE, in succeeding her Aunt, Miss Fletcher, as Principal of this Establishment, BEGS TO INFORM her Friends that her PUPILS will ASSEMBLE on TUESDAY, August 29th.

MISS FLETCHER hopes to REOPEN SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 14th. She will be happy to communicate with any Parents wishing to place their Children in the bracing air of Brighton this coming Autumn.

A Tutor resides in the house.

Further particulars on application to 13, Powis-square, Brighton.

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Established 1857.

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The NEXT TERM will commence on TUESDAY, Sept. 5th.

Prospectuses, &c., on application to the Principal.

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Hetton or Lambton Wall's-end, by screw steamers and railway, 23s.; Hartlepool, 22s. best Wigan, 20s.; best Silkestone, 20s.; new Silkestone, 19s.; Clay-cross, 20s. and 17s.; Primrose, 19s.; Barnsley, 17s.; best Derby, 17s.; Kitchen, 16s.; Cobbles, 15s.; Hartley, 16s.; Nuts, 14s.; Tanfield Moor, 19s.; small, 11s. Coke, 14s. per 12 sacks. Net cash. Delivered thoroughly screened. Depôts, Highbury and Highgate, N.; Kingsland, E.; Beaufort Wharf, Kingsland-road; Great Northern Railway Stations, King's-cross and Holloway; and 4 and 5 Wharves, Regent's-park-basin. No Agents.

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Sick and Wounded.—The many and expensive forms in which this well-known medicine is administered, too often preclude its adoption as a general tonic. The success which has attended "Waters' Quinine Wine" arises from its careful preparation by the manufacturer. Each wineglassful contains sufficient Quinine to make it an excellent restorative to the weak. It behoves the public to see that they have Waters' Quinine Wine, for the result of Chancery proceedings, a short time since, elicited the fact that one unprincipled imitator did not use Quinine in the manufacture of his wine. All Grocers sell Waters' Quinine Wine at 30s. per dozen.

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